



Appeal Court rejects 15-year term

## Howard was 'unfair' to Bulger killers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

**MICHAEL HOWARD** suffered his twelfth defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that he had acted unfairly in setting a minimum 15-year sentence on the two boys who murdered James Bulger.

The Home Secretary was criticised for taking a "perfunctory" approach to the case and told that he should not have heeded public petitions demanding that the two boys never be freed.

The procedures followed by Mr Howard in reaching his decision "were so seriously flawed and lacking in fairness and so open to criticism" that the tariff should be quashed, the judges said.

But they upheld the Home Secretary's right to treat young people convicted of murder in the same way as adults — although Lord Woolf disagreed with his fellow judges. He argued that detention at Her Majesty's pleasure was "different, separate and more merciful" than a life sentence, and called for a review of the administration of cases which would result in children being locked up for long periods.

Lawyers for the killers, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, said that they would pursue that point to the House of Lords.

Mr Howard also said that he intended to take the case to the highest court. "We won on the substantial question on which we lost in the court below. We have lost on one other point, and we will appeal that to the House of Lords," he said.

Thompson and Venables were aged ten when they abducted two-year-old James Bulger from a Liverpool shopping centre and murdered him on a railway line in February 1993.

They were convicted at Preston Crown Court and Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, ordered them to be detained at Her Majesty's



Howard: "We will now appeal to Lords"

pleasure. He recommended a minimum eight-year tariff for punishment and deterrence, which was increased to ten by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth.

Mr Howard then increased it again to 15 years after receiving a petition signed by 250,000 people, 4,400 individual letters and 21,000 coupons from readers of *The Sun* backing the Bulger family's demand that the boys should never be released. He also received another petition signed by 6,000 people urging a minimum sentence of 25 years.

But in his first major ruling since becoming Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf said yesterday that the Home Secretary was wrong to take the petitions into account because it was impossible for Thompson and Venables to test or match them.

A court would regard it as quite improper for this type of material to be put before it, he said, and to run a campaign designed to increase the punishment in a particular case would amount to interference with the due administration of justice. "This being the position as to the courts, I find it difficult to see the justification for the Home Secretary taking a different view.

"I can only describe the approach in these cases as perfunctory and as failing far

below the standards that a court would adopt if contemplating sentencing a child for a period of 15 years.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morris agreed that the tariff should be quashed — although they accepted that the Home Secretary had the right to raise the tariff recommended by the trial judge — and all three judges urged the Home Secretary to review the case and set another minimum term.

Lord Justice Morris said that it could not be right that Mr Howard did not take into consideration material, including psychiatric and pre-sentencing reports, which would have been available to a judge sentencing an offender to a determinate term a good deal shorter than the tariff he had in mind.

Mr Howard would now be able to reconsider the tariff in the light of all relevant information, which he should close to the boys' lawyers, the judge said.

The decision was greeted with anger, however, by Denise Bulger, the murdered boy's mother, who said it was disgusting that the court should tell Mr Howard to ignore the petition. "I think he did the right thing taking it into account," she said. "I hope he does not reconsider and sticks to the 15 years he set. They deserve a lot longer. They deserve life."

Conservative MPs, too, accused the judges of "setting themselves above the public" and of putting the interests of the criminal over those of the victim.

But Stephen Shaw of the Prison Reform Trust welcomed the ruling, saying: "A politician seeking re-election should play no part in deciding how long offenders spend in prison. Britain is a country ruled by law, not by tabloid newspapers."

Fears for Venables, page 2  
Leading article, page 15



One face among thousands at a memorial service in the city's re-opened Centennial Park yesterday for victims of the Atlanta bombing. Report, page 10

## Games plan that flopped

FROM JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE Government yesterday asked for an unprecedented meeting with the British Olympic Association over the lack of success at the games.

The dearth of success is particularly embarrassing for the Prime Minister because last year he had announced a plan, *Raising The Game*, to revitalise sport from school to international level.

Iain Spratt, the Minister for Sport, phoned Dick Palmer, the British Olympic Association secretary, to set up a debriefing session on the

team's return to London next week. In the first ten days of competition Britain won only one gold medal through Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the coxless pairs.

There are fears the haul here will be the worst since 1952, when only one gold and a total of 11 medals were won. Mr Palmer added: "I have a message for John Major but I think these games have already told him what it is. We need money."

At the moment, medal prospects receive money from the Sports Aid Foundation, which is funded by donations from individuals and companies.

## Strike curbs threatened as post deal is rejected

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE Government is actively considering curbs on 24-hour strikes and imposing huge fines on unions that provoke disruptive disputes in the monopoly public services.

As more industrial unrest looms Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, yesterday gave the strongest indication yet that the Government is preparing to legislate after recent disruptions in the Post Office and London Underground.

His warning came as moves to settle the postal dispute over pay and working practices suffered a setback when union leaders rejected the deal reached last week. The decision could lead to the ending of the Post Office monopoly.

The 24-member executive of the Communication Workers' Union voted overwhelmingly to reject the agreement thrashed out with Post Office managers during 60 hours of talks at the conciliation service Acas.

The agreement, drafted by senior managers and CWU leaders after weeks of negotiations, was quashed by the executive because of objections to clauses in the deal, which offers pay and working conditions improvements, on teamworking and first-post delivery targets.

The Government is expected to suspend the Post Office's monopoly on delivering letters with a postage value of £1 and under.

Amid Labour claims that the Government is deliberately "hyping" industrial difficulties for political reasons, Mr Lang will spend much of the next few weeks reconsidering plans rejected in the past for ending strikes in the essential public services. Ministers

have not ruled out the introduction of legislation in the autumn for the last session of Parliament before the election if strike action increases over the next few months, although they concede that it is more likely that the plans will figure in the election manifesto.

Mr Lang is to look at plans for unions to lose their immunity against legal action if they organise strikes in the essential services. Under these, unions would face the threat of damages payments which could bankrupt them.

Plans for introducing much longer "cooling-off" periods before strike action is called, and forcing unions to ballot their members more frequently if a dispute goes on for some time have been looked at both by the DTI and the Downing Street policy unit and will be studied by Mr Lang.

The idea of withdrawing immunity from unions that stage 24-hour strikes has *Continued on page 2, col 5*

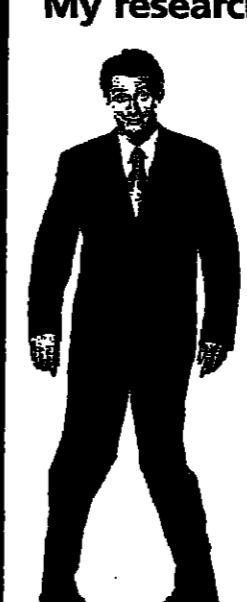
One-day strike, page 2



## On Eurostar, there are many comfy seats and toilets.

My research

shows that this is not true of family cars.



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### USAir sues BA

The planned merger of many British Airways and American Airlines transatlantic operations was thrown into disarray when BA was sued by its American partner USAir. *Page 2*

### Stalker claim

A stalker probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was bludgeoned to death with her daughter on a country footpath, police have said. *Page 3*

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## Resorts not to be missed — for noise or bad food

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are to be told the truth about what to expect at their chosen resort next year — a concept that has apparently never before occurred to tour operators.

Tens of thousands of British families who flock to the Costa Brava, for example, will be told in glossy brochures on travel agents' shelves tomorrow that "charm is not a word that springs to mind when talking about Lloret".

Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, made the ground-breaking decision to be honest about what to expect partly because it is convinced customers want to go to and comply in advance with ever-tougher European consumer legislation.

The hotels, many of which are criticised in the summer 1997 brochures, had not been told in advance of the plan to expose their shortcomings.

Descriptions of poor food and facilities are written by Thomson staff, but based upon the three million ques-

tions filled in by their holidaymakers each year.

The brochures say that people "sniffy" about Benidorm on the Costa Blanca "have probably never been there". "The problem is they still think of it as a fishing village overrun by a scrum of hotels. Benidorm is now more a fishing village than London's Docklands are docks."

Kuta in Bali is "all stirred up with swarms of motorcyclists that most of the young seem to rent". Turkey is "grown so fast that streets may not have pavements".

In the Dominican Republic "roads are dug up and then forgotten and the electricity supply is sometimes erratic". The Playa de las Americas in Tenerife "jumps to music day and night as the young people who go there get a continuous fix of decibels".

Ibiza is "big and noisy and sometimes rowdy and night-life only stops at sunrise". Food at the Hotel Zoraida

## Offer for doomed embryos 'immoral'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A OFFER by Italian doctors to buy 3,300 frozen human embryos due to be destroyed tomorrow has been rejected as immoral and illegal.

Peter Brinsden, director of Bourn Hall Clinic in Cambridgeshire, which may have to dispose of 1,000 of the 7,000 embryos it is storing, condemned the Italian request.

"It is unethical and immoral to pass them on without the couples involved giving their consent," he said.

"How would people react if they found out two or three of their children were running around Italy in a few years time?"

The embryos are from couples who have lost touch with the clinic for whatever reasons and they must take some of the responsibility for the situation. It is not something we are looking forward to but we have no choice."

Bourn Hall Clinic is one of the test tube baby centres which is required by law to dispose of unclaimed embryos after the midnight expiry of a five-year deadline. An Italian

pro-life group has found 100 women, including two elderly nuns, willing to give birth to the embryos or adopt them.

The Vatican has led condemnation of the mass destruction.

Claudio Giorlandino, medical director of Artemisia, a chain of Italian pre-natal clinics, said: "We'll give any technical and financial support so that they are not destroyed. I don't know how they would be perverting their machines tightly. It's a sin. It would be perpetrating thousands of abortions."

Even attempts to be diplomatic have a certain barb.

"The beach location more than makes up for any noise that may come from the nearby road and railway," they say of one Sri Lankan hotel.

"We have not taken legal

advice to prepare ourselves in the event that any resort or hotel should sue us," said Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director.

"All we are doing is telling the truth ... we have taken the views of the most important critics — our customers."

Letters, page 15



Father describes his 'tough little girl's' battle for recovery as police reconstruct double killing

MALCOLM GANDERTON

## Mother and daughters were 'victims of stalker'

By RICHARD DUKE

A STALKER probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was and bludgeoned to death with her six-year-old daughter on a country footpath, police said yesterday.

Dr Shaun Russell, speaking after police staged a reconstruction of his family's last walk home together, told how the "miraculous" recovery of his surviving daughter Josephine, 9, had helped him through the tragedy.

Dr Russell, 44, speaking from his cottage in Nonington, Kent, described how for three hours he did not know which of his two daughters had been murdered with his wife. Dr Russell said he was initially led to believe that Megan had survived the attack, but on arrival at hospital he found Josephine.

He said: "I didn't know which daughter had survived. I was rushing to London not knowing who I'd find in bed. Even though she was black and blue I knew it was Josie."

Dr Russell explained that police at the scene first thought both daughters were dead, but then a doctor found Josephine still had a pulse.

He said: "At that stage I was as much a suspect as anyone. I was in a pretty delirious state in those three hours. I thought they were all dead and saw nothing but a great big, black, empty future,



Shaun Russell at the gate of his cottage where he said yesterday he felt "gentleness and happiness"

two weeks later she was climbing over a door to get to the fridge. She has an appetite like an ox. She is an extremely tough little girl."

Although Josephine can mutter only the simplest words and has the responses of a two-year-old, she has already been allowed out of hospital with her father to a nearby park where they fed squirrels and geese together.

Dr Russell, whose daughters always talked to their parents on first name terms, said the words managed so far by Josephine were "No, OK, Goodbye" and "Go Away, Sha."

He said it was not until 10 days after the attack that Josephine was told her mother and sister had died. "I was present but didn't do it myself. The main attending psychologist did that. I was one foot away. The doctors present told me that the message got through because she turned violently away."

"She has already had spontaneous outbursts of crying which are particularly upsetting to me. Things are starting to come back to her and she has started the grieving process. I've been offered counselling but turned it down. I save my tears for my own privacy."

He said watching Josephine's recovery was "like watching a young child grow up again before your eyes. She is still unable to concentrate for more than a few moments.

She can't respond to questions. To discuss events around this tragedy is a long way off."

"I don't feel any dread coming back to the house. I find it comforting with all the signs of my family around me. I feel gentleness and happiness in the place."

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said the attack was "almost unique in British criminal history" where a mother had been killed as well as her children by a stranger. The family terrier Lucy was also killed in the attack.

He could have spoken to her." Police said that blood on a heavily-stained towel, seen being dumped in a hedge by the suspect, matched that of one of the victims, but they would not say which.

The reconstruction used actresses because locals were still too upset to take part.



Actors follow the route the family took home from school in a reconstruction of the minutes before the attack

no future at all. Then I saw Josie alive and now suddenly I had something to cling to."

Dr Russell, a lecturer in nature conservation in Canterbury, was speaking after a police reconstruction three weeks to the day after his wife and daughters were attacked as they walked home from school in the neighbouring

## Doctor is cleared of Christmas stabbing

By KATE ALDERSON

A DOCTOR was cleared yesterday of stabbing his stepson with a letter opener during a family argument on Christmas Day. Dr Ian Reid Entwistle said he was delighted with the verdict and would celebrate with champagne.

The jury at Liverpool Crown Court took almost four hours to find Dr Reid Entwistle, 62, not guilty of wounding Robert Fachiri with intent at Christmas 1994, and to the lesser, alternative, charge of unlawful wounding. Dr Reid Entwistle, from Clayton, Merseyside, denied attacking Mr Fachiri with the 18in knife in his sitting room.

During the seven-day trial the court was told that Mr Fachiri suffered a 5in deep wound to his abdomen and needed emergency surgery. The weapon was never recovered.

Mr Fachiri, 24, a diver, denied suggestions from Ian Alexander, QC, for the defence, that he inflicted the wound on himself so that he could sue his wealthy stepfather. He said that he grabbed his stepbrother, Alexander, by the lapels after he had called his mother a name and that Dr Reid Entwistle then got out of his chair and stabbed him with the letter knife.

Dr Reid Entwistle told the court that he did not stab Mr Fachiri, nor did anyone else, and that there had never been any such knife kept in the room.

The doctor, who was medical superintendent of the Cunard Group for 30 years, said that after the brawl his wife, Rosemary, began divorce proceedings. He had described the marriage as "most unusual".

She stepped off a flight at Heathrow into the hands of Detective Inspector Bob Smart, of Northumbria Police, who had been on her trail the whole time.

John Cartwright, for Mr Fachiri, said that she had benefited from about £86,000 of the stolen money. The rest had been left with a couple in Northampton, Roland and Marilyn Mason, who "somehow or other were relieved of that money". Shiel admitted that "most unusual".

Her husband — now estranged — was arrested six

months after the crime when he came back to England to collect more of the money. He was jailed for three and a half years after denying conspiracy to steal. His wife later slipped back into the country, living undetected in London for a short time, but then fled to Kenya using a false passport.

Pearl Willis, for the prosecution, said that the money ran out and she led a "poor and impoverished life", twice being jailed in Kenya for working illegally. On her release, in March, she came home.

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# Student cheating

We're still on Alan's side, say school friends who are now in a different league from £15m footballer

## Teenage team-mates back Shearer's fantastic wages

By STEPHEN FARRELL

FOURTEEN years after Paul Elliott and Alan Shearer played in the same team of under-12s, both are on wages of £180. Elliott earns that much in a week. Shearer in about an hour.

In 1982 all the boys in the trophy-winning Gosforth Central Middle School team were dreaming of football stardom. Some still play the game but none can match the fantastic earning power of Newcastle United's £15 million signing.

Shearer's annual income now includes £1.5 million a year from his new club (£30,000 a week), win bonuses of up to £10,000 per game, a £1 million slice of his transfer fee in five annual instalments, £100,000 from a Sunday newspaper and £60,000 as the top scorer.

This does not include the sponsorship deals with Sugar Toffs, Virgin Publishing and Classic Cola that have helped to pay for two expensive cars and a £450,000 house.



Gary Hays, a builder who plays non-league soccer, and his former team-mate Alan Shearer

Such was Shearer's popularity, however, that none of his schoolmates resents his success.

Paul Elliott, 26, right back, lives in Kendal, Cumbria. He went to university but now earns £180 a week on the production line of a confectionery firm, which also pays

him a £1,000 annual bonus. "I don't begrudge Alan the money," he said. "He's a good lad and deserves it."

Gary Elliott, 25, right wing, is studying for a law degree. He gets a grant of about £1,700 a year and has a summer job with an insurance firm. "It's an awful lot of

money to pay for one player — too much really but if you want the best then that's how much you've got to spend and Alan's the best."

Steve Mayne, 26, centre half, signed on to receive £46 in family income support on the day that Shearer's signing was announced. He lives in a two-bedroom flat with his girlfriend and will go to university in September. "I'm quite happy with what I've got and he deserves his success because he's such a genuinely nice guy and great player."

Robert Crosby, 26, full back and sweeper, once had a trial with Manchester United and played for Newcastle Schoolboys with Shearer. Now he runs Fat Pigs Catering in Blaydon, Tyne and Wear.

Andy McTaggart, 26, forward, played for non-league Newcastle Blue Star after leaving school but gave up after a serious ankle injury. Now he is a telecommunications engineer, married with two children, and lives in Killingworth, Tyne and Wear.

Tony Harrison, 26, left back, a joiner in Newcastle, where he lives in the city centre, said: "I'm delighted he's done so well."

Gary Hays, 26, midfield, is



The triumphant under-12 team of Gosforth Central Middle School: back row, from left, Chris Downs, Steve Mayne, Neil Whatmore, Robert Crosby, Andy McTaggart, teacher Brian Dockar. Front row, Nick Jones, Paul Elliott, Tony Harrison, Alan Shearer (captain), Garry Elliott, Steve Leech, Gary Hays

tions engineer, married with two children, and lives in Killingworth, Tyne and Wear.

Stephen Leach, 26, substitute, lives in Gosforth where he is a heating engineer at the AMEC offshore yard.

Brian Dockar, 62, teacher,

never coached another school team after Shearer's under-12s. He retired in 1982 and

lives in Whitley Bay on a pension and his earnings as part-time secretary of a golf club.

"I'm delighted he's done so well. He was the best footballer I ever had in any of my teams, but it's unbelievable to think anybody I taught

could ever be earning that sort of money. It's all crazy."

## PC cleared of sex assaults escapes force discipline

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICE officer who was cleared on the instructions of a judge of indecently assaulting two policewomen is to return to the beat without being officially disciplined.

PC Robert Bridle was found not guilty of four charges last week after Judge McCallum told Bradford Crown Court that his actions stemmed from "the sort of behaviour people are liable to indulge in when there's a lot of tension around".

The judge told the jury the case would be "dealt with in a more suitable forum" and West Yorkshire Police promised they would "robustly pursue" further action against the 41-year-old officer.

But they said yesterday that because PC Bridle, who has been suspended from work for nearly two years after allegations by two policewomen and a civilian, had already been tried, there was nothing further they could do. Bridle, of Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, was reinstated after a meeting with a senior officer who gave him "strong advice".

The force, which took legal advice on the issue, declined to say when and where PC Bridle will return to work. He still faces an industrial tribunal brought by one of his alleged victims.

The Home Secretary recently proposed radical changes to the system whereby an officer cannot be tried a second time if he has already been tried by a court. Chief Constable Keith

Hellawell said that, in the meantime, "we have no option but to apply the present rules".

He added: "The force will continue to set high professional standards and will not shirk from pursuing action against its officers for any behaviour that falls below those standards. We will not tolerate sexual harassment."

"We should not forget the impact that this case has had on the officers who raised the issue in the first place. One of our key priorities will be to offer whatever help, support and guidance we can to those involved in the case."

The 25-year-old woman who is taking PC Bridle and the force to an industrial tribunal is also suing the chief constable for compensation for the psychological injuries she claims she has suffered.

John Goodwin, her solicitor, said: "This news doesn't surprise me after what happened in court, but it doesn't mean her allegations will be withdrawn."

PC Bridle was accused of trying to kiss the WPC and grab her breasts, as well as another officer's breasts, at Halifax police station.

His solicitors issued a statement on behalf of the officer. It said: "The decision of West Yorkshire Police to reinstate and not bring disciplinary proceedings within such a short time of his acquittal at Bradford Crown Court totally vindicates PC Robert Bridle in this matter."

## Student fails in cheating case

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A STUDENT'S 10-year campaign to clear his name of cheating and force Bristol University to reinstate his first class honours degree in mathematics failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Francis Foecke, 38, has run up a £50,000 bill in his legal battle against the university authorities who decided, after an inquiry in 1986, that his examination results were too good to be true.

The court refused to overturn the decision to withhold the degree, effectively agreeing with the university that it was "beyond reasonable doubt" that Mr Foecke had cheated. The court also struck out a libel claim against the university and mathematics professor Geoffrey Grimmett.

Mr Foecke, an American, of Redlands, Bristol, studied computer sciences and mathematics between 1983 and 1986, when he sat an "unprecedented" 13 papers in his finals, achieving first class results in them all. He always insisted that he achieved his high grades through hard work but was regarded by his tutors as a poor student. His first-year results were so poor that he was almost removed from the honours degree course.

University authorities were immediately suspicious when Mr Foecke's answers mirrored model solutions outlined by the examiner. The papers even mirrored the mistakes.



Foecke: results judged too good to be true

An inquiry, chaired by Dr Andrew Paterson of the university's mathematics department, concluded that Mr Foecke had used knowledge of the examiner's solution which could not have been honestly obtained.

At the inquiry, Ian Karsten, counsel for the Board of Examiners, said there was no other explanation than that he saw the outline solutions. The examiner had used an unusual method of calculation that was faithfully reproduced by Mr Foecke.

Mr Foecke, a self-employed builder, said after yesterday: "It is not over as far as I am concerned. I can probably proceed to the European courts. I am determined to find some way of venting this affair in court."

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New technique allows surgeons to perform operation through four small holes in chest

## Keyhole heart bypass cuts scars and recovery time

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

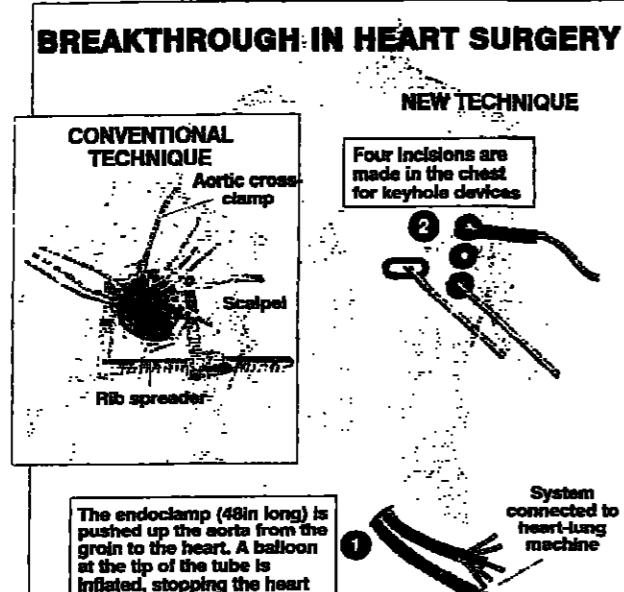
HEART bypass patients will be able to leave hospital within three days and return to work a week later after a breakthrough in keyhole surgery.

The new technique, which is being tested in three hospitals, leaves five small incisions in the chest and groin, the longest  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in, instead of a 9in gash from the base of the neck down across the ribcage.

Teams of surgeons at Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire, the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital in west London and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh have each used the new instruments and equipment successfully on three patients. The equipment, produced by Heartport, an American company, has been tested in the United States, Germany and Malaysia. The new operation takes four hours, slightly longer than using the traditional method.

They use delicate viewing and cutting instruments that allow them to work inside the body through small holes in the skin. The most important advance is a device called an endoclip, consisting of a 48in tube pushed, via a cut in the groin, through the aorta to the heart.

Once there, a balloon attached to the tube is inflated, stopping the heart so that it can be operated upon precisely. At the groin, the tube



divides into two pipes connected to a heart-lung machine that takes blood in and out of the body, effectively replacing the organs' functions.

In conventional bypass operations, surgeons expose the heart to attach it to a heart-lung machine; it is stopped with a stainless steel clamp. They then use a scalpel to cut the diseased artery or arteries and bypass them using other blood vessels. The keyhole devices allow surgeons to perform the operation through four small holes in the chest.

Under the old method, having a rib broken and tissue cut

walk his nine pet dogs within days of returning home from Papworth after keyhole surgery, to the relief of his wife Audrey, who had been taking them out four times a day.

This week he cut the lawn for the first time since developing angina two years ago. While ill, he was unable to get as far as the garden gate.

"I can walk for miles, clean the car, go up a ladder. It has gone completely," Mr Ellis said. He returned to work a month to the day after his operation. Most bypass patients never return to their jobs because they need three months to recuperate.

The new method will be tested on 45 people in Britain, all of whom have a single diseased blood vessel. Only 500 bypass operations a year involve single vessels as most patients have several diseased arteries. The surgeons hope the technique can be adapted to help the rest. They also believe the swift turnover will allow more operations to be performed.

■ A new form of vaccination could provide better protection against tuberculosis, scientists at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, north London, have shown. The existing vaccine, called BCG and originally introduced in 1908, is reasonably effective but can cause complications.

The Mill Hill team, led by

Dr Douglas Lowrie, have shown that equally good results can be obtained by injecting mice with a vaccine made from a stretch of the genetic material DNA that comes from the agent that causes leprosy, a mycobacterium closely related to the one responsible for TB. The team



Geoffrey Ellis and his wife, Audrey. He was back at work a month after surgery

isolated the length of DNA the leprosy bacterium uses to make a protein called hsp65, and injected it directly into the muscles of the mice. The muscle cells then began to manufacture hsp65.

The immune systems of the mice developed antibodies

against this foreign substance, enabling them to recognise and fight off the TB agent that carries the same protein.

Dr Lowrie said: "This is a very promising start indeed and with TB on the increase any new leads in fighting the disease have to be welcome."

## Sun study looks for a ginger group

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

FAMILIES of redheads are being urged to help scientists to discover why they are more prone to skin cancer. DNA samples will be taken from generations of volunteers.

Dr Ian Jackson, of the Medical Research Council's Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh, believes that unravelling the secret may help to find cures for a number of forms of the disease. He said: "Because of their pale skin, redheads almost invariably do not tan well. We want to follow the gene back and learn how it works. We need to take DNA from at least three generations — four would be ideal.

"Ideally we would like a really large family, some with red hair and some dark. Someone will ask them a series of questions and take DNA samples, by collecting blood samples." Dr Jackson, who is not a redhead, has already collected samples from red-headed members of his own family at a recent wedding: "It was too good an opportunity to miss."

Last year, the team isolated a gene which they think is involved in determining skin colour and therefore the likelihood of tanning or burning. Dr Jackson's theory is that the gene may control pigmentation, but cannot trigger red hair unless another gene is also present. The number of the Human Genetics Unit is 0131 467 8413.

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By DAVID...

## Don't hold a gun to GPs' heads over odd patients



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

IT IS unlikely that the Government will endorse the idea that doctors should countersign a patient's application for sporting or other gun licences.

Doctors would be fiercely opposed, mainly because of the clinical difficulty in judging when a patient is no more than eccentric and when he or she is suffering from a psychotic disease that might prove dangerous. Barring all the bizarre patients on our lists from holding a gun licence would result in many empty butts on the moors on August 12.

Doctors also fear that a patient's confidentiality might be unnecessarily breached. Peculiarities revealed in consultations are usually perfectly benign. To disclose their existence on a firearms application would be unlikely to save a life but might endanger future practice. If a patient is obviously paranoid or dangerously depressed, no doctor worth his salt would fail to ensure that the patient was denied easy access to a gun.

Major shooting incidents seem usually to have been associated with people whose behaviour should have caused comment. In Britain, the diagnosis of schizophrenia is hedged about by criteria defining which symptoms need to be present before its presence can be acknowledged. In other countries the disease is regarded more as a spectrum of symptoms and such terms as 'schiziform', 'schizoid' or 'schiz' frowned upon by experts, are used to describe the resulting psychiatric conditions.

British society and patients might be healthier if we were not so rigid in our diagnostic terms. Not everybody who

has a gun is always a responsible citizen but they may not necessarily be dangerous. In country districts, shotguns are widely owned and sometimes misused, and most older country doctors have memories of the dangers such weapons caused before regulations were stricter.

I shall never forget the Fletchers. An appalling obstetric history had resulted in Mary Fletcher having three entertaining, boisterous daughters under the age of seven and a series of bloody miscarriages. Thirty years ago I was giving her a few words of advice on the advantages of the recently introduced Pill when her husband Peter appeared in the bedroom of their Norfolk cottage, having climbed the stairs that led, like a stable ladder, directly from the room below.

Peter was beside himself with anger and determined that his wife should not be instructed in such unnatural practices as contraception. Being rather busy with his wife's bleeding, I gave Peter a firm push. He fell backwards with a clatter down the stairs and lay still for a few moments before recovering and leaving the cottage.

The next time I was in the village I noticed him driving his tractor with a 12-bore across the dashboard. Peter's employer, Billy, was not reasoning. I had explained that I thought the gun might be intended for me. Billy replied: "Ah, doctor, but it is. Peter is terrified of you and said you nearly killed him last week, but he has promised he will only use his gun in self-defence."

On another occasion in a neighbouring village, a middle-aged man sent for me to examine his wife, who had gynaecological problems. The husband took his shotgun off the wall, loaded it, and as the examination proceeded, he pointed it to my chest while he cocked and uncocked the old-fashioned mechanism from time to time.

As I carried out the examination I wondered if the husband was familiar with gynaecological procedures, or whether he might mistakenly think I had transgressed the standard examination procedures.

But all was well: at the end of the examination he hung up his gun and said: "So glad I didn't have to use it. I have always liked you."

I thought I ought to discuss the incident with my senior partner but he was not impressed. "Don't you worry about that once I delivered a baby with the father holding a gun to me, assuring me that if the baby died, so would I. I have never been so pleased to hear a newborn child cry."

## Artificial skin used to treat girl's birthmarks

By NIGEL HAWKES

A GIRL aged 12 has had birthmarks repaired using artificial skin in what is believed to be the first such operation in Britain.

Andrew Burd, a surgeon based at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, used a material called Integra, which mimics human skin, encouraging it to grow under a protective layer. So far the use of the product in Britain has been confined to the treatment of burns.

The girl, who has not been named, had the surgery on two birthmarks on her legs. Now Mr Burd hopes to use the technique to treat major burn cases and to remove tattoos and birth marks.

Integra is softer and more durable than human skin and reduces the risk of unsightly scars. It can also be used to cover large areas; human skin transplants are suitable only for smaller areas.

Integra was developed by

layer — is seeded onto the new dermis. After a further week a complete new skin has been formed with no scarring.

Integra is manufactured by Integrated Life Sciences Corporation of Boston, Massachusetts, in 10in by 4in sheets costing £800 each.

One patient to benefit is 10-year-old Andrew O'Donnell, who suffered severe burns to the upper body on holiday in France six years ago when a tent caught fire.

The technique was tried after four years of skin grafts. Andrew's mother, Linda O'Donnell, 36, from Dursley, Gloucestershire, said yesterday: "So far it looks very good. He has had other grafts, but the corners started to die. So, when Mr Burd mentioned it, we agreed because we were willing to try anything."

Andrew said: "It itches a little, but I think it's great."

SATURDAY  
IN THE TIMES

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24 hours

# Couple posed as officials to rob and assault pensioners

BY JOANNA BALE



McDonagh and Bates: admitted attacks

THREE pensioners were attacked and robbed in their homes by a young couple posing as social services officials. Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

The three watched from the public gallery as John McDonagh and Catherine Bates admitted burgling their homes in the Small Heath area of Birmingham last November.

The court was told that the smartly dressed pair pretended to be from social services when they called on Stanley Clarke, 84, a retired insurance superintendent. Claiming they were there to fit smoke alarms after a fire next door, they asked Mr Clarke for £5 and later demanded more. When Mr Clarke refused, he was punched in the face, tied up and left on his bed, while the couple stole £105.

Two days later they called on Daisy Drew, 82, a 4ft 10ins great-grandmother who lived

alone. They forced their way indoors, again demanding £5. When she refused they repeatedly punched and kicked her in the face, then stole £40 from her purse and ripped a pair of gold earrings from her ears.

Mrs Drew suffered a fractured collarbone and a broken finger after McDonagh and Bates stamped on her hand as they tried to steal her wedding ring. She was left tied up in her home for more than three hours and needed 15 stitches to wounds on her face.

The same evening they called on Alberta Green, 79,

who also lived alone. As she emptied the rubbish outside her home they forced their way in, claiming to be relatives, and attacked her, ransacking her home.

They stole £600, leaving her bound and gagged on the sofa. Mrs Green was found by her milkman 36 hours later, suffering from severe shock and hypothermia.

McDonagh, 37, of no fixed address, and Bates, 27, from Lee Bank, Birmingham, both admitted burgling Mr Clarke's home. McDonagh admitted assaulting him and an identical charge against Bates was ordered to lie on the file. Both also admitted robbing Mrs Drew of her earrings and robbing Mrs Green.

The case was adjourned for a pre-sentence report on Bates and both were remanded in custody.

Mrs Drew and Mr Clarke have since moved from their homes and Mrs Green now uses a wheelchair. She was wheeled into the ground-floor



Stanley Clarke, Alberta Green and Daisy Drew, who were attacked and robbed in their homes by McDonagh and Bates

courtroom yesterday and stared at the couple as they gave their pleas.

After the hearing she said: "They were guilty so they have to plead guilty. I don't think very much of them. I think I could choke them. I hope they go down for a long time but it isn't what I think that matters. It is up to the court now."

Mr Clarke, a widower who also uses a wheelchair, now lives in Wales, a move he had planned before the attack. He said: "I was very pleased to see

them where they should be. I hope they are given a long term — they have aptly deserved it."

The £195 stolen from his house was due to be used for shopping and paying bills, he said. He has since been paid £2,500 by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

"It was only money but being knocked about is more serious than the loss of the cash," Mr Clarke said.

"When I saw them today in court it passed over my head. I

have no violent reaction at all."

Mrs Drew now lives with her daughter and uses walking sticks. She was helped into the courtroom by her family. She said: "They are both as bad as each other. I think it is terrible they were not sentenced today. I am still having nightmares. I am never getting over that."

Donna Purdie, 31, her granddaughter, said the family had suffered badly from the attack. "She is not the same

woman," she said. "She was so up and about. She was not 82 in her head. She has always been young, going out, buying things for people. Now she just sits there. At first we thought she was giving up on us but she has fought a real battle."

"She lived there for around five years on her own but now she lives with her daughter and she has never been back. When they attacked her, they attacked the whole family. It has destroyed part of our

family." Yesterday was Mrs Drew's first time out of the house since last November. She intends to return to court to see the pair are sentenced.

Detective Sergeant Julie Appleton said after the hearing: "We want a substantial sentence, double figures. They have ruined these people's lives."

"It has been difficult for the victims to get to court but I am sure they will come back again because they want to see these people punished."

## Male teachers are shunning primary schools

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MALE teachers will disappear from primary schools by 2010, Anthea Millett, the chief executive of the Teacher Training Agency said yesterday. Men are being deterred from entering the profession by its poor public image and, according to teachers, the risk of being accused of abusing pupils.

Over the last decade, the number of male teachers in England has fallen by more than 10 per cent to just 30,000, while the ranks of women teachers have grown by a similar amount to 140,000. The gender gap is greatest among new teachers and growing wider, according to Whitehall figures. Just one in ten male primary teachers is under 30 and more than two thirds are over 40.

Ms Millett, speaking at the annual conference of the Professional Association of Teachers, suggested that a poor public image of teaching may be to blame for the failure to attract men. She said the introduction of targets to encourage male recruits was being considered.

Teachers at the conference said the lack of male role models in the classroom could be to blame for declining standards of achievement among boys. Girls perform better at every A-level subject except physics and 48 per cent of girls gain five good GCSE passes compared to 39 per cent of boys. They said men were deterred by low pay and the fear of being falsely accused of child abuse.

The agency, set up two years ago, cannot set quotas for male recruits to teacher training colleges in case it breaks sex equality laws. However Ms Millett said it would be "looking at the balance of men

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### SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



## Philippines gives Briton 17 years for child abuse

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

A COURT in the Philippines sentenced a joker to 17 years in jail yesterday for sexually molesting his landlady's two young sons.

Steven Mitchell, 44, formerly of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, became the second foreigner to be convicted for paedophilia under legislation introduced in 1993 to combat an increase in sexual abuse in the Philippines. Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister, watched the last session of the court as a measure of Britain's efforts to help Asian countries to combat abuse. She said: "Paedophiles must be punished, whatever their nationality and wherever they commit their offences."

Mitchell was ordered to pay £5,000 damages to the victims and the cost of the action brought by their mother, the only witness. She said she saw him molesting one of the boys in his rented room.

Two other Britons are on trial in the Philippines for similar offences to Mitchell's.

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'Those who break the rules should resign'

## Backbench MPs seek end to ministerial deception

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

SENIOR backbench MPs demanded a code of conduct yesterday to prevent government ministers from misleading the Commons.

The Public Service Committee wants a resolution spelling out the obligations of ministers to be open and honest and a requirement for them to resign if they break the rules. The MPs have produced a long report saying that ministers should be accountable as well as responsible for their actions and must respond to criticism of their departments.

The report was commissioned after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Derek Lewis, the sacked head

of the Prison Service, clashed over ministerial responsibility for prisons. The committee has a Tory majority.

Mr Lewis was dismissed over a damning report on jail security. He said later that the Home Secretary had not given the Prison Service the backing it needed. He complained that he had been the scapegoat for Mr Howard's reforms and accused him of frustrating policy with U-turns, interference and incompetence.

The MPs' report, *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*, has been given extra weight by problems encountered during the Scott inquiry, when it transpired that minis-

ters had given misleading answers to Parliament.

Under the committee's proposals, which it wants approved in a resolution of the House, all MPs, ministers and witnesses appearing before Commons committees would be "obliged not to obstruct or impede it in the performance of its functions".

Staff from the semi-independent executive agencies, chief executives and civil servants would be asked to give "frank and clear" evidence rather than toeing the department's line. "Ministers are accountable, but civil servants must give an account," the report says. It lays down guidelines

to try to prevent arguments between chief executives and ministers over responsibility and ministerial interference, but admits that there are some grey areas that have to be "judged".

The committee consists of 11 backbenchers, including the former Public Service Minister David Hunt. They say that ministers who break the rules should be particularly culpable. "Because ministers have a duty to account to Parliament for the policies, decisions and actions of their departments and agencies, the House will regard breaches by them of the obligation described above as particularly serious."

The present system has too many "responsibility escape clauses" for ministers. They should not be allowed to fudge issues for political advantage. "Ministers must take special care to provide information that is full and accurate to Parliament and must, in their dealings with Parliament, conduct themselves frankly and with candour."

The committee recognises that ministers may need on occasions to withhold information, but says that they should do so only exceptionally. "They must not knowingly mislead Parliament and they should correct any inadvertent errors at the earliest opportunity. The House will expect ministers who do knowingly mislead it to resign."

The report says: "The Prime Minister must take responsibility to ensure that ministers live up to the standards required of them and to decide whether their performance is good enough although, in judging them, he will have to take into account the extent to which ministers retain the confidence of the House."

Giles Radice, the Labour chairman, said: "Parliament has never had a parliamentary code which sets out ministerial responsibility and we are determined to do it."

The report aims to give backbench MPs greater power. The committee wants MPs to be able to complain to the Ombudsman when information is withheld from a government department and for it to become standard practice for ministers to have to explain why information is withheld.

The committee has promised a government reply before the Commons sits in October and hopes that the resolution will be approved before the general election.

PETER RIDDELL

## Remedy lies in improving Parliament's performance

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

Parliament has to improve its performance if ministerial accountability to the Commons is to be strengthened — and the multiple breaches of the principle identified by the Scott inquiry are to be avoided. That is the most important implication of yesterday's report from the Public Service Committee, *Ministerial Accountability and Responsibility*, which offers the most thorough, balanced and up-to-date discussion of the issue.

The committee decided to look at the topic because of the controversy over the meaning of accountability raised by the creation of the Next Steps executive agencies and the sacking of Derek Lewis as head of the Prison Service last October. The inquiry was broadened after the publication of the Scott report in February.

The debate has often focused over the elusive concept of responsibility and accountability. These have fascinated constitutional theorists and provided convenient let-outs for ministers and civil servants. The MPs have not tried to shift from the traditional doctrine of ministerial accountability to Parliament but have sought to pin ministers down — by proposing that, for the first time, Parliament itself should define what is required from ministers in a

more formal way.

Members of the committee realised as the inquiry proceeded that many of the

remedies lie in Westminster rather than Whitehall. The final sections of the report contain a frank discussion of what the Commons needs to do to make accountability a reality. Select committees have a patchy record in carrying out major investigations. The report takes up the idea floated by the Trade and Industry Committee for special parliamentary commissions to establish the facts on complex subjects, such as the arms-for-Iraq affair. There are broader questions about the focus and work of select committees — the day-to-day forum for accountability. This does not necessarily mean big increases in staff or resources, on the American model, but rather a better use of what is already available, such as allowing the National Audit Office to carry out studies for departmental select committees.

As the report suggests, broader inquiries into the work of select committees and the legislative process are needed, preferably this winter to provide a starting point for the next Parliament. What yesterday's report shows yet again is how the Commons needs to strengthen its procedures if it is to fulfil its aspirations, and, incidentally, rebuild its reputation.

PETER RIDDELL

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

### CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Gold Service and Asset Management Service Current Accounts	Gross %	Net %
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£ 5,000+	1.50	1.20
£ 2,500+	1.25	1.00
£ 1,000+	1.00	0.80
Below £1,000	0.75	0.60

### OVERDRAFTS

	% Per Month	% APR*
Student	0.60	7.4

\*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/Security charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

### SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option	Monthly Option	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.10	4.08	4.98	3.98
£ 50,000+	4.75	3.80	4.65	3.72
£ 25,000+	4.40	3.52	4.31	3.45
£ 10,000+	4.00	3.20	3.93	3.14
Below £10,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/Security charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

30 Day Savings	Annual Option	Monthly Option	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.40	2.72	3.35	2.68
£10,000+	3.15	2.52	3.11	2.49
£ 5,000+	2.85	2.28	2.81	2.25
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option	Monthly Option	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.30	2.64	3.25	2.60
£10,000+	2.95	2.36	2.91	2.33
£ 5,000+	2.50	2.00	2.47	1.98
£ 500+	2.15	1.72	2.13	1.70
Below £500	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.80

The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/Security charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

TAX-FREE - The annual interest rate after deduction of tax at the appropriate rate; this is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.

Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the account falls within an exempt category or the account holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

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Mrs Bottomley with Sally Thomas, 7, from Stoke-on-Trent, at the report's launch

## Lottery to fund renaissance of arts education in schools

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS will be allowed to apply for National Lottery cash to fund trips to museums, galleries, concerts and ballet as part of a government plan to revitalise arts education.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said the money could also pay for musical instrument libraries, teaching workshops, and visits to schools by artists. Under the scheme, schools can apply to the Arts Council for "tens of millions" to fund specific projects and trips.

The report aims to give backbench MPs greater power. The committee wants MPs to be able to complain to the Ombudsman when information is withheld from a government department and for it to become standard practice for ministers to have to explain why information is withheld.

The committee has promised a government reply before the Commons sits in October and hopes that the resolution will be approved before the general election.

£1,500 has been paid for percussion instruments at Braybrook Primary School in Peterborough, and Robinswood Primary School at Matson, Gloucestershire, has built a 120-seat theatre and an art room with a £80,000 grant.

A spokesman for Robinswood said: "We have better facilities now, which is a great help. An arts centre has made a big difference to the school. It was impossible to 'get funding before'."

The report encourages all schools to apply for National Lottery cash and give the arts an integral place in their development.

Colin Grigg, head of education for the Tate Gallery, was encouraged by the report but noted the irony that the gallery's annual grants for running costs are being cut. The National Curriculum will not incorporate more arts teaching in the timetable and Mrs Bottomley would not specify how much money will be spent under the arts initiative.



## Art scholars rally to save painting

By DALYA ALBERGE

TWO of the art world's most eminent scholars have attacked Lord Rothschild for refusing to increase a lottery grant to save a 17th-century Italian masterpiece for the nation.

Sir Denis Mahon and Sir Hugh Leggatt called on the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund to top up the £1.53 million grant promised by the National Galleries of Scotland, which needs £2.43 million to buy the painting by Il Guercino, *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred*. It is £276,000 short of its target.

They asked why he did not take advantage of a government policy which states that lottery funding should be "flexible". If the money cannot be raised, an export licence will be granted to the Getty Museum in California, which bought the painting from the Howard family of Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, where it had hung since 1772. The National Galleries of Scotland

### NEWS IN BRIEFS

## Farewell to Jade draws 500 mourners

Five hundred mourners attended the funeral of Jade Matthews, nine, who was found dead three weeks ago at Bootle, Merseyside. Members of her Cub Scout group formed a guard of honour at the church, where she was a bridesmaid last year for her mother Denise, 31, and step-father Bob Branch, 37. Her headmaster, Bob Branch, said: "She had such energy, such love of life, and she shared it with us through her smile." A boy aged 13 has been charged with murder.

### Sorrey sight

A thief who stole £568 of goods from a furniture shop in Darlington was ordered by the town's magistrates to go back and apologise. When he returned with a note from the manager, Anthony Middleton, 20, was given a 12-month conditional discharge.

### Virtual lectures

Students hundreds of miles apart in northern Scotland will be able to share lectures thanks to £500,000 of government funding announced yesterday. Video conferencing will unite the proposed University of the Highlands and Islands.

### Death payout

The family of an Irish policeman killed in Sarajevo while on UN duty has been awarded £500,000 compensation against the Minister of Finance by the High Court. Sergeant Paul Reid, 39, died when his vehicle was hit by sniper fire and crashed.

### Shining example

Fire engines and police cars used headlights to illuminate an airfield at Rochester, Kent, to guide a helicopter carrying a pregnant woman on to the runway, which is normally closed at night. She was being transferred from hospital in Eastbourne to Chatham.

### Sheep dip

A lifeboat rescued three RSPCA officers who became stuck at the bottom of a 400ft cliff near Lee, North Devon, after they abseiled down to try to save a stranded sheep. Attempts to pull the sheep up the cliff failed. It died, apparently due to stress.

### Getting the bird

A pigeon lost four years ago during its first race has been found in China. Phil Hodin, from Dorchester, who released the pigeon in West Sussex, received a telephone call this week telling him that his bird had been found in Dalian, Manchuria.

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NEWS IN SHIPS  
Farewell  
to Jade  
draws 300  
mourners

# Europe may fine firms obeying anti-Cuba curbs

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN companies may face hefty fines for co-operating with American courts seeking to enforce President Clinton's "trading with the enemy" legislation, the European Commission said yesterday. The initiative is part of a package of measures designed to retaliate against the US Administration's attempt to extend American law beyond its continental boundaries.

In what is being seen as a clear signal that the European Union is prepared to stare down America, the Commission's proposal would make it illegal for European companies to co-operate with any legal action taken under the so-called Helms-Burton Act.

Brussels regards the Act, which allows US companies to sue foreign ones for "trafficking" in assets taken over by Cuba's Communist state, as a flagrant violation of national sovereignty.

Helms-Burton, an amalgamation of decades of Washington's anti-Cuba legislation, became law this month. After protests from Western allies, President Clinton, in effect, suspended the relevant part of its application until February. But, because of the Act's retrospective clauses, companies with investments in

Europe's rail freight industry will be all but extinct early next year without a considerable attempt to reverse its fortunes. Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes). Unveiling a White Paper, he called for a Europe-wide network of rail freight freeways to help the railways to compete better with road transport.

property confiscated by Cuba after the 1959 revolution could find themselves liable from November.

The Clinton Administration said last night that the Commission's measures would have no effect. A White House official added: "The Helms-Burton Bill is not designed to punish those who do business with Cuba but those who traffic in stolen property there. If the Europeans wish to invest themselves of stolen property, they will have no problem."

Under the Commission's proposal, European companies will be instructed not to obey US courts on grounds of "sovereign compulsion". The objective would be "to tie the

US legal system up in knots so that it could not function properly," one official said.

If the US courts then sequester some or all of the assets of European firms for failing to comply with Helms-Burton's provisions, European firms will be able to "claw back" equivalent damages from US subsidiaries operating in the European Union, the Commission said.

European companies will also be required to begin compiling a "watch list" of US companies that file lawsuits against them, so the Commission can monitor the scale of US legal action. Those failing to notify the Commission that they have become the subject of US legal action, or who co-operate with US courts, will face "proportional, effective and dissuasive sanctions", the Commission said.

Sanctions are likely to be similar to those that can be imposed under Britain's 1980 Protection of Trading Interests Act, under which companies can be fined up to £5,000 for every document they hand over to foreign courts.

Brussels is preparing to initiate legal proceedings against the US at the World Trade Organisation for violating international trade law, while officials are drafting plans to impose visa restrictions on US citizens in retaliation for the visa restrictions imposed on EU citizens.

The Council of Ministers is expected to decide on the Commission's proposal in September. Sir Leon Brittan, the EU External Relations Commissioner, said: "Europeans and Americans share a continuing desire to help to turn Cuba into a responsible member of the international community."

But, he said the Helms-Burton Act "is not the right way to achieve that goal", adding that it "offends and attacks America's trusted allies, damages business confidence in the US and beyond, and establishes a dangerous precedent".

confidence that followed Britain's announcement that the disease could possibly be transmitted to humans who eat contaminated beef and beef products, may lead to a permanent drop in consumption of about 15 per cent.

Herr Fischer has been trying to restore confidence in Europe's beef and lamb markets, but he helped to fuel a new scare last week by announcing plans for a ban on the brains, nervous systems and offal of sheep after tests showed that sheep could be infected with the disease.

After the virtual disappearance of European surpluses, the beef mountain is back. Across the 15 member states, more than 50,000 tonnes of unusable and unsaleable beef is being taken into storage every month. This situation can be expected to continue until production is brought into line with reduced demand.

The Commission also hopes to reduce the beef surplus by slashing the extent and range of subsidies for beef farmers.

## EU 'mad cow' bill could exceed £1bn

BY MICHAEL DYNES

MORE than £1 billion will have to be raised from the European Union's agriculture budget to help pay for eliminating "mad cow" disease, the European Commission disclosed yesterday.

Unveiling Brussels' new policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul, Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, announced plans for a 7 per cent cut in cereal and set-aside subsidies to help to support Europe's beef farmers. The proposals will be submitted to EU agriculture ministers for approval in September.

The plan is likely to provoke a furious response from cereal and set-aside farmers. Many already believe that the commission is using the beef scare as a back-door way of reducing subsidies.

"This is a drastic situation which requires drastic measures," Herr Fischler said. "The crisis is large. It is the largest crisis faced by the beef sector in Europe's history. We need to take swift decisions."

Commission officials fear that the collapse in consumer

confidence that followed Britain's announcement that the disease could possibly be transmitted to humans who eat contaminated beef and beef products, may lead to a permanent drop in consumption of about 15 per cent.

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Changing face of *Pravda* — the 84-year-old Communist newspaper has become a tabloid to win more readers

## Pravda turns over a new leaf

FROM RICHARD BEELSTON  
IN MOSCOW

ONE of the last pillars of Communism came crashing down yesterday morning when *Pravda*, the once-venerable voice of the Soviet Communist Party, succumbed to market forces and hit newsstands as a tabloid.

In an extraordinary twist to the fortunes of a paper founded by Lenin 84 years ago, and still loyal to his ideology, the new-look *Pravda* will concentrate on crime, youth, fashion and other aspects of modern life which its ageing and dwindling readership had been spared.

Yesterday's edition was void of the usual ideological commentaries that filled the final broadsheet edition. It devoted a whole page to crime-fighting and carried an item about Masons in the British police.

The decision to turn the broadsheet into a tabloid came after a long-running dispute between *Pravda*'s Greek owners and Aleksandr Ilyin, the Editor, over the paper's future. The contest came to a head earlier this month in an unsolved battle, which at one point led to police being called in by the Editor to investigate the alleged theft of *Pravda*'s three valuable "Order of Lenin" medals which still adorn the masthead.

"There was never any theft. The orders



Lenin: the paper's founder

were in our safe all the time," said Theodore Yannikos, the director of *Pravda International*, the newspaper's publisher. "The move was just an attempt by the Editor to intimidate us."

The Yannikos family bought a controlling interest in 1992 when the paper was on the verge of collapse. Once published in 44 cities across the former Soviet Union and boasting a readership of 11 million, the daily has seen circulation shrink to about 200,000. It has faced repeated threats of closure by the authorities for a consistently pro-Com-

unist editorial line. For the past year Mr Yannikos and his brother Christos have been trying to attract new readers with *Pravda Pyat*, a slick weekly tabloid produced by a team of young journalists under a different editor.

"The incident over the Orders of Lenin was the last straw," Mr Yannikos said. "We demanded Mr Ilyin's resignation and suspended publication of *Pravda*. Starting this week, subscribers are receiving *Pravda Pyat* on a daily basis."

Although he would not say whether the old format would be published again, Mr Yannikos said the time had come for change.

"We have been very patient and poured money into *Pravda* even though journalistic standards have been failing," Mr Yannikos said. "The time has come to face the fact that our readers don't want some long, boring article taking up a whole page."

Mr Ilyin contends that the call for his resignation and the replacement of his paper by a 16-page tabloid is the result of President Yeltsin's victory over the Communists in this month's presidential election. "We are taking an independent position and that is why they don't like me," he said. The owners wanted to pursue a more centrist ideological line in keeping with Russia's other, more successful, mass circulation papers.

## Tobacco tax leaves Spaniards fuming

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN MADRID

A TOBACCO war has erupted in Spain as thousands of kiosk owners, enraged by "an abuse of power" by the state-owned tobacco monopoly, threatened yesterday to slam down shutters on every street corner and go on strike.

If their threat is carried out, life will become unbearable for nearly 40 per cent of the population, last year's official figure for those who smoke a packet of cigarettes or more a day, making Spain the country with the highest per capita consumption of cigarettes in the European Union.

Seeds of the dispute between Tabacalera, the state tobacco company which controls distribution in Spain, and the kiosk owners, or *estanqueros*, were sown on Friday when the Government announced a sharp increase in cigarette tax. The increase, which takes effect tomorrow, means that a packet of Marlboro will cost £1.75, a rise of 25p. The price of a packet of Dardos — the rasping cigarette that is Spain's most popular brand — will soar to 85p, an increase of nearly 20 per cent.

Kiosk owners, not surprisingly, were rubbing their hands in anticipation of a few days of panic buying. Long early-morning queues had, in fact, formed at tobacco kiosks all over Madrid the day after the tax announcement, with people buying several cartons each of their favourite brand.

Yet Tabacalera, fearing that many buyers were not bona fide smokers but "obvious speculators and profiteers", refused to replenish stocks at empty kiosks, leaving their owners fuming. New stocks, Tabacalera said, would arrive just before the new prices come into force.

The National Association of Tobacco Retailers is speaking ominously of strike action if "adequate compensation" is not paid. The Organisation of Tobacco Consumers has also attacked the state monopoly, accusing it of "wanting to have its cake and eat it too".

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# Burundi's leader urges neighbours to back his coup

FROM SAM KILEY IN BUJUMBURA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MAJOR Pierre Buyoya, Burundi's new Tutsi ruler, yesterday paid flying visits to East African leaders to canvass support ahead of a regional summit to consider his coup last week.

Officials in Uganda said the retired soldier met President Museveni in the capital, Kampala. Major Buyoya then headed for Tanzania where he met Julius Nyerere, the former President, who is now the international mediator on Burundi.

The Burundian leader was later expected to visit Arusha where he was to meet President Mwai Kibaki of Tanzania, who is hosting the regional summit today. On Monday, Mr Nyerere said Burundi was in danger of becoming another Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were killed in ethnic genocide in 1994.

Major Buyoya has not been invited to the summit. State-run Burundi radio said his meetings yesterday were "to explain the reasons why he took power".

In Uganda, a spokesman for President Museveni said Major Buyoya had not visited Kampala as leader of Burundi. "He came here as a leader of a strong faction," he said.

Major Buyoya's mission was a desperate attempt to shore up support for his regime, whose future is as much linked to winning diplomatic support as to its vital national asset, its brewery. Security at the Barauda beer and soft drinks factory, which advertises "Dynamal" on its gates, is tighter than at the television station, the airport or the presidential palace in Bujumbura, the capital.

Burundi's administration would collapse if it were not for the brewery, which provides 40 per cent of the Government's revenue as the country remains torn after three years of civil war and

ethnic killings. Taxes on the profits of the brewery, 60 per cent owned by Heineken and 40 per cent by the Government, are used to pay Burundi's civil servants and its 17,000-strong Tutsi army.

Among other sources of income is \$300 million (£194 million) a year in foreign aid. But this has ended after Western donors despaired of funding a country descending into anarchy, one Western diplomat said.

Burundi's earnings from coffee exports this year are predicted to fall by a third to \$10 million because of Hutu rebel attacks on factories and the poorer quality of beans.

Major Buyoya, a moderate Tutsi who came to power in a

day's summit, regional leaders are expected to discuss plans to send a peacekeeping force to separate Burundi's warring groups.

The democratic gesture Major Buyoya demonstrated in 1993, when he stepped down, may have won him a sympathetic hearing in Kampala. But observers said he needed rapid successes on more than the diplomatic front if his Government is to survive and gain the opportunity to fulfil his promise of ending the cycle of killings.

A veteran African envoy in Bujumbura said: "To win over the Tutsi extremists, he needs battlefield success. To win over the Hutus, he needs to curb the army's excesses. To win us over, he has to prove his genuine about peace. His intentions may be genuine. But he has much less than 12 to 18 months before Burundi's economy collapses. Then he won't be able to order an unpaid army into battle, pay his civil servants, or persuade Hutus to return from the bush to their coffee farms."

The envoy added: "The sad thing is that few of the [Tutsi] elite seem in the least bit concerned that their destinies depend on the uninterrupted production of [beer brands] Primus and Amstel."

Mr Zaire accused: "The international community should hold the Zairean Government accountable for ethnic violence between Hutus and Tutsis in eastern Zaire. Human Rights Watch says in a report today [Eve-Ann Prentice writes], 'The group says the Zairean regime is guilty of complicity in attacks by Hutus on Tutsis in north Kivu, eastern Zaire, where many Hutus fled to from the genocidal conflict in Rwanda two years ago.'

He has said he needs "12 to 18 months" as head of a "transitional government" to bring an end to the civil war in which the Tutsi-dominated army and Hutu rebels avoid fighting each other, but slaughter civilians.

Mr Nyerere, who has been mediating between Tutsi and Hutu extremists, has called for international sanctions against the Buyoya regime, which has not been recognised by Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda or Ethiopia. At to-

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Grace Bradberry on the Italian casual label that British youth is snapping up



ABOVE: (from left) Bandy top, £27.50; Doze skirt, £57.50; Mile top, £30; Rey skirt, £57.50; Trait shirt, £70; Rey skirt, £57.50; Bandy top, £27.50; Gant jeans, £75; Casanova jumpsuit, £157.50. All boots are period originals. RIGHT: Salsa-bis skirt, £57.50; mohair striped long-sleeve sweater, £52.50. Photographs by ELLEN VON UNWERTH (above) and JOAKIM JONASON (right)

**B**ritain is renowned for its street fashion. So why is it that so few people dare wear it?

Eurocasual, American preppie, US sportswear — we'd rather buy into any casual look than risk experimenting with our own more radical street chic. The Gap seems inviting, trendy British stores much less so.

But there are signs that metropolitan twenty and thirtysomethings are turning back to our own homegrown style. The film *Trainspotting* led to an epidemic of undersized T-shirts this summer, while Britpop has brought still more people back inside the youth culture loop.

So who will be the chief beneficiary of this trend? French Connection may benefit, so may the new Hyper Hyper, due to open in the autumn. But ironically it is an Italian jeans company, Diesel, which looks set to clean up.

Since the late Eighties a series of cheesy, Technicolor advertisements have been appearing in style magazines and on Tube trains. There was even a bit of Benetton-esque contro-

versy when one ad showed a huge cigarette with the slogan "You only need one lung".

And for the past couple of years Diesel has been targeting DJs and Britpop musicians with considerable success. Liam Gallagher of Oasis wears the label, as does Jarvis Cocker of Pulp.

Cocker even opened the company's flagship store in Covent Garden, partly out of gratitude that his Diesel jacket had kept him warm during a night in a police cell. (Cocker, if you remember, was arrested after he staged an anti-Michael Jackson protest at the Brit Awards.)

But perhaps the cleverest thing that

the company has done is to set itself up as an "in-joke". Even its sunglasses, with the distinctive and much-copied holes down the side, were a sort of take-off of designer shades.

To reinforce this ironic message, the new Neal Street store has changing rooms designed to look like saunas and showers. As you stand before the mirror in an optical print shirt and bootleg hipsters wondering: "Will people laugh?", the answer is reassuring: "Only if they get the joke."

Critics will say that this is styling rather than design, and in a way they're right. The clothes drip with

cultural irony, and every item is reminiscent of something or other.

Seventies suburbia is a fashionable theme right now, and Diesel has tight leather bomber jackets, zip-up cardigans and stripy mohair tops. Then there are the optical prints and stripes. Though they have clear Sixties origins, this is really the Sixties as seen through the refractive lens of Prada.

Oh, and of course Diesel still does jeans. This year, the bootleg shape is the thing to have — if your hips can take it. The man's bootleg even has a special name, the Funker. It's low-waisted, tight across the hip and kicks out at the bottom.

So what should you buy? A look at the autumn/winter collection throws up five basics: A-line hipster skirts in suede or denim, optical print nylon shirts or shirt dresses, zip-up cardigans, bootleg jeans and Seventies-style tight leather jackets.

• The Diesel store is at Neal Street, Covent Garden, WC2 (for your nearest stockist, telephone 071-333 2255). Diesel can be reached on the Net on <http://www.diesel.co.uk>

## Street chic with a sense of humour

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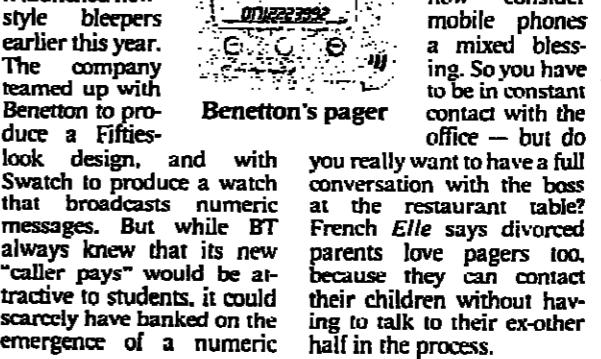
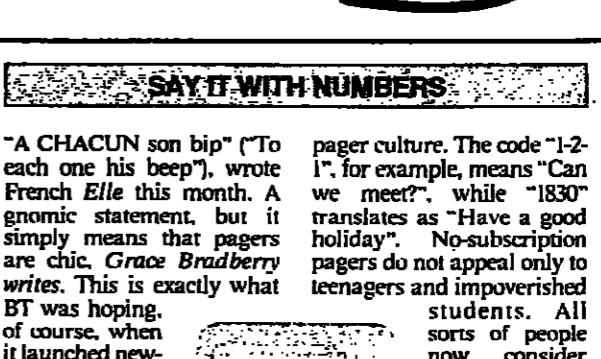
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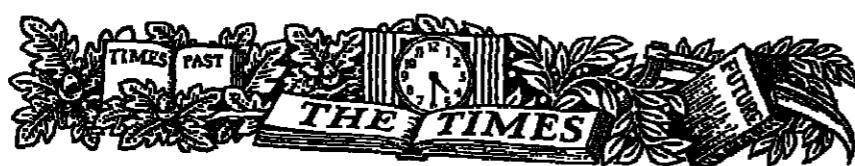
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## IN THE DOCK

### Judges, not ministers, should mend their ways

It is a far from dignified posture for a Home Secretary to be permanently at loggerheads with the judiciary. It is regrettable that the Court of Appeal yesterday found the Home Secretary to have acted unjustly in setting a minimum sentence of 15 years for the killers of James Bulger. It is the latest in a series of reverses for Mr Howard. As the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, remarked, public disagreement between ministers and judges can "only tend to undermine the public confidence in the criminal justice system".

But Lord Woolf and his colleagues on the bench should consider the cause of the conflict. The Home Secretary has acted as he has in the Bulger case, and provoked judicial displeasure, only because the judges themselves have failed. The erosion of public confidence in the justice system owes more to a series of over-lenient sentences than any of Mr Howard's actions. He is right and the judges are wrong, and nowhere more so than in the tragic Bulger case.

The murder of James Bulger at the hands of two schoolchildren was a crime of unique horror. Mr Justice Morland, the judge at the trial of the killers, Venables and Thompson, described their crime as an "act of unparalleled evil and barbarity". Such an act demanded an exceptional response.

But Mr Justice Morland failed to match the stringency of his words with the severity of his sentence. He recommended that Thomson and Venables spend a minimum of only eight years in custody. That was subsequently revised upwards to ten years by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor. That was still inadequate. Only when Mr Howard insisted on a tariff of 15 years was natural justice seen to be done.

Lord Woolf and his colleagues, wisely, accepted that retribution should play a part in the sentencing of juveniles like Venables and Thomson who are over the age of criminal responsibility. They also accepted that the Home Secretary is within his rights

to set the tariff. But exception was taken to the role Mr Howard assigned to public pressure, in the shape of petitions, in fixing the sentence.

Lord Woolf argued that the original sentence took into account the need to maintain public confidence in the judicial system and Mr Howard's genuflection to popular feeling could have resulted "in double accounting". But, whatever, the trial judge's intention, his sentence clearly did not command public confidence. The scale and intensity of public feeling in favour of a stronger sentence could only be ignored by a Government insensitive to public faith in the administration of justice.

When the death penalty was abolished Parliament made a compact with the people that their representatives would have the right to insist on a basement for sentences in certain capital crimes. By taking public feeling into account in the Bulger case Mr Howard was not bending to the roar of the mob but weighing in the balance the public support for the courts on which the rule of law ultimately depends.

In considering how the Home Secretary should exercise his discretion, the House of Lords has said that the minister must "have regard to broader considerations of public character than those which apply to an ordinary sentencing function". Mr Howard had regard to those factors, and in so doing

acted not in defiance of the law but as a shrewd guardian of its reputation than some on the bench. It is a pity that this matter did not end with Mr Howard's decision. Appeals have only prolonged the pain of the victim's relatives and will have done nothing to incline the public's hearts towards mercy in the future for the killers. If there is anything to be gained from the rehearsal of these arguments again it can only be a reinforcement of the importance of allowing the public to be heard when their sense of justice is grievously offended.

## DEFEAT FOR IRAQ

### Turkey remains, reluctantly, loyal to the allied coalition

Since he was driven out of Kuwait but not out of power in 1991, President Saddam Hussein's strategy for dealing with the West has been based on two assumptions. The first is that the West would eventually tire of the military cost of containing Iraq and would relax their guard. The second is that the longer he remained in power in defiance of international sanctions and internal unrest, the readier Iraq's neighbours would be to conclude that the course of prudence lay in normalising relations with his regime.

For both these reasons, yesterday's vote in the Turkish Parliament was psychologically and politically important. The mandate for Operation Provide Comfort, the allied mission which protects Iraq's four million Kurds against attack from Baghdad, was due to expire today. The use of the southern Turkish base at Incirlik is crucial to its effectiveness; the alternatives, flights from Jordan or Cyprus, would not only be vastly more expensive but would depend on Syria's permission to overfly its territory.

Before he took office last month Necmettin Erbakan, the new Prime Minister and leader of the Islamist Refah (Welfare) Party, denounced the allied use of Incirlik as "an infidel invasion force" and vowed to terminate the mandate. Had he not abruptly changed his mind — and succeeded in persuading anti-Western Islamist MPs to vote yesterday for its extension — Saddam would have scored his first significant political victory against the international coalition ranged against him.

Operation Provide Comfort was mounted in April 1991, when Saddam crushed an uprising by Iraq's Kurds, forcing two million refugees across the borders into Turkey and Iran. The West's response was a massive

relief programme backed by a no-fly zone, policed by American, French and British air forces, prohibiting Iraqi flights north of the 36th parallel. The operation has never been popular in Turkey, which has for 12 years been confronting its own Kurdish separatists, the PKK, and which objected to the possible precedents created by this protective umbrella over Kurdish-inhabited Iraq.

Up to now these objections had been outweighed by Turkey's determination to play its full part in the international effort to curb Saddam, and above all by the priority it attached to its close alliance with America and its membership of Nato. But Mr Erbakan and his party, whose platform is both anti-Nato and derisive of Turkey's pro-Western policies, have denounced Provide Comfort as a Western plot to reimpose by stealth the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres, which envisaged an independent Kurdistan.

This Government is the first to be led by a religious party since Ataturk founded the modern, secular republic. This was an early test of whether government would moderate Refah's rhetoric. Mr Erbakan claims to have been convinced that the real purpose of Provide Comfort is to prevent a renewed rush of Kurdish refugees into Turkey. So it is, in part — but the more likely explanation is that America left him in no doubt that he risked a massive crisis in Turkey's relations with Washington. Turkey's military command has no intention of jeopardising them.

The army is also fiercely protective of Turkey's secular constitution, and there have been three military coups in postwar Turkey, in 1960, 1971 and 1980. At home as well as abroad, Mr Erbakan is on probation. For the purposes of maintaining pressure on Iraq, it is just as well that he knows it.

## THE DIG OF BINYAMIN

### Canaanites: sound at multiplication, but weak in Scripture

These are the excavations of the children of Israel, which went forth out of Hebrew University to dig in the land of Canaan.

2. And they dug up the City of Hazor, yea that mighty city of Canaan the son of Ham; and Canaan was the patriarch of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and the Hezobites, and other heathen that furiously rage together.

3. For verily, as it is written in the Book of Netanyah: Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

4. Were the only two that ever got through to the land of milk and honey.

5. And Joshua at that time (about 1250 BC) turned back and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazor before was the head of all those kingdoms. And mighty was his smiting.

6. And the generations of the Hazor dig cor-

respond to the account in *Joshua*.

7. But now Professor Amnon Ben-Tor of Hebrew University followed in the footsteps of Joshua to the land flowing with milk and honey, with a mighty host of archaeologists, volunteers and scribes from the Associated Press, Reuters and *The Times*.

8. And they have uncovered four tablets of clay no bigger than the palm of a man's hand, which go back four score and forty generations to the days of Abraham, when patriarchs roamed the Promised Land. For there were giants in the Earth in those days.

9. And thereon this is the writing that is written on the tablets of clay in the lost Akkadian wedge-letters of the Canaanites and, to avoid repetition of Hivites and Hittites, all the rest of the raging heathen. 10. One of the tablets is a lawyers' document, whereon is written that A telleth B that C is a liar: so what else is new under the sun?

11. For it is written that ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country.

12. And another tablet listeth the tin and silver, the gold and precious stones sent from Hazor unto Mari, the mighty city of the Canaanites in Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abomination of the Earth.

13. And yet a third tablet setteth forth multiplication tables, showing that the Canaanites were primitive accountants.

14. The Hivites were quango warriors and fat cats. For multiplication is vexation, division is as bad; the Rule of Three doth puzzle me, and Practice drives me mad.

15. Now these tablets from Hazor come from the royal palace of the King of the Canaanites, and Ben-Tor declareth that they are the most important of all documents ever found in the land of milk and honey.

16. Be that as it may, and Ben-Tor would

wouldn't he? Those Canaanites may have been skilful at mathematics; but they can never recover their rightful place in history, because they lack Holy Scripture, especially as translated in the Authorised Version.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Decision time on single currency

From Mr Christopher Johnson

Sir, John Redwood ("A single currency won't wait", July 27) does not want to wait until after the general election to open up the debate on whether the UK should join the single currency. I agree with him, even though our conclusions would differ.

The Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons yesterday published its report, *The Prognosis for Stage Three of EMU*, with annexes by myself and two other specialist advisers detailing the arguments for and against UK membership of the single currency.

The Government should now initiate a White Paper setting out objectively the arguments for and against, to be published in the autumn. In this way, the issues could be openly debated. No political party would need to reach a conclusion before the election, and whichever party was elected could take a decision in 1997 against a background of public information rather than the ignorance to which many people now confess.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
(Author, *Out with the Pound*, Penguin, 1996),  
39 Wood Lane, N6.

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, John Major (report and interview, July 25) is quite right to refuse to decide in advance whether Britain will agree to join the European single currency area when the European Union goes over to having one stable money throughout the EU. Not only does this enable Britain to influence the future shape of European economic and monetary union (EMU), but it also gives British ministers a stronger negotiating hand. They can threaten that Britain will not join if it does not get its way on some key points, whereas if it says in advance that it will not join its views would not even be considered.

However, why does the Government not want a full, frank and open debate about the pros and cons of a single currency? Having one stable money throughout Europe, or at least in those countries having stable enough economies to be able to join EMU, will indeed be "the most important single decision that Europe and this country will take for many years", as Mr PM said in his interview.

So why did Britain turn down the money offered by the European Union last April to finance an information campaign about a single currency? Other EU countries like Germany have been happy enough to accept. It is only if British MPs and the general public are fully informed that misunderstandings can be avoided and the country will accept — perhaps after a referendum — Parliament's decision to join or not to join.

Screaming headlines and snappy soundbites are no substitute for full and informed debate.

Yours faithfully,  
J. SZEMEREY,  
76 Marnixlaan,  
B-3090 Overijse, Belgium.

From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir, The single currency inevitably entails a single balance sheet covering the whole of Europe. On that balance sheet there will appear for the first time the consolidated 15-national figure for their total unfunded governmental pension debts at a stupifying £10 billion. This will be expressed, of course, as Mr Major's which, thank heavens, in December 1991 secured a British opt-out will denounce the euro in advance of its planned imposition on December 31, 1998. Any party which fails to end its ambivalence at its 1996 party conference will become deservedly and, one hopes, permanently unelectable.

Each new British child is today born saddled with a combined national and unfunded pension debt of £9,000. Under the single currency, however, that same child would inherit not only a *per capita* debt of some £39,000 but the lifelong prospect of swinging levels of taxation to bail out unfunded pensioners from other EU countries.

Yet still none of the major parties (even Mr Major's which, thank heavens, in December 1991 secured a British opt-out) will denounce the euro in advance of its planned imposition on December 31, 1998. Any party which fails to end its ambivalence at its 1996 party conference will become deservedly and, one hopes, permanently unelectable.

Yours faithfully,  
NORRIS MCWHIRTER (Chairman),  
The Freedom Association,  
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.

From Mr William Hall

Sir, Your leader today, "Off the fence", argues that a decision on the single currency can no longer be deferred.

It can and probably will be. Both Mr Major and Mr Blair will, I suspect, move heaven and earth to ensure that this issue is kept out of their general election campaign. Whoever wins will then claim a bogus mandate to lead the country kicking and squealing into EMU.

Yours sincerely,  
W. HALL,  
88 Bridle Lane,  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.  
July 30.

### Catholic criticism of the Queen

From the Reverend Dr J. P. O. Barry

Sir, William Oddie's attack on Her Majesty the Queen (reports, July 25, 27; letters, July 27), suggesting that she has "been seen openly to abandon the belief that marriage is indissoluble", is simply incorrect.

I doubt very much if the Queen, as an Anglican, ever held that marriage is indissoluble. However, while it is true that marriage ought to be indissoluble, as the Church Fathers taught, it is quite wrong to proceed to argue as Mr Oddie does, that marriage cannot be broken.

I am sure that most people realise that many marriages break down. Alas, the Prince and Princess of Wales are not alone. In her encouragement of their divorce, the Queen displays the honesty of the Anglican tradition which she must uphold. The marriage of Charles and Diana existed in name alone. The whole world perceived that essential fact. How the sanctity of Christian marriage would have been better served by insisting that the couple remain married in public, whatever

their behaviour in private, escapes me.

Had the Queen indeed insisted on the latter, as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England she would have been vulnerable to the charge of hypocrisy.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN BARRY,  
The Rectory,  
Comber, Co Down.  
July 27.

From Mr J. Lovatt

Sir, The Dean of St Paul's (report, July 27) now puts his case against Dr Oddie's comments. Anglican leaders must realise that in attempting to become fashionable, bending to whims of minorities and making unnecessary changes to the scriptures, they are losing their lambs and sense of direction.

Yours sincerely,  
J. LOVATT,  
Grant House, 19 Hollam Drive,  
Dulverton, Somerset.  
July 27.

### Involving citizens in Ulster solution

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, There is nothing new in politics. The *plans for Northern Ireland* which Airey Neave drew up before the 1979 election (with some small assistance from me in Chris Patten's Conservative Research Department) were virtually identical to the proposals put forward by David Trimble ("The politics of the attainable", July 25).

The Neave plan was summarised in the Conservative election manifesto of 1979: "... we will seek to establish one or more elected regional councils with a wide range of powers over local services". I expanded on this commitment in briefing notes which were circulated to Conservative candidates on April 25, 1979. They stressed that the chief objective of our plans was to "involve all sections of the population, regardless of their political outlook, more closely in the running of local affairs".

Like David Trimble, Airey Neave believed above all that the people of Northern Ireland should be able to take the issues which affect their everyday lives locally elected representatives, as they can in the rest of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. There is nothing narrow or bigoted in a true Conservative and Unionist prescription for Ulster.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISTAIR B. COOKE  
(Chairman of the Trustees),  
Friends of the Union,  
PO Box 1261, London SW3 4JF.

From Mr N. J. Mustoe

Sir, Two of your correspondents today

suggest that the solution to the troub-

les in Ireland could be for the majority of the population of Ulster to be repatriated to Britain. Presumably they both wish to find a solution that causes the least suffering.

On the contrary, their solution would involve the uprooting of a million people, torn from the land their fathers have handed down to them for hundreds of years. This pain and anguish would be halved, if the Irish minority of half a million was expelled to the South. According to your correspondents' rules, this should be a perfectly logical answer.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MUSTOE,  
Blackthorn Cottage,  
20 Cross End,  
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire.  
July 22.

From Mrs Verna Middleton

Sir, How kind and considerate your readers Mr Winston Fletcher and Mr L. Gilbert are (letters, July 22).

For 25 years here in Northern Ireland the majority of law-abiding, peace-loving citizens have endured civil unrest, murder, massive destruction of our towns and cities and acts of terror that have frequently reduced us to tears.

Now it appears that from peaceful southern England your armchair politicians are to resettle a large population — whether we wish to go or not. Is might therefore triumph over right? Where pray are we all to go?

Yours faithfully,  
VERNA MIDDLETON,  
9 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast.  
July 22.

From Mr Gerry Orme

Sir, As a professional driver and vehicle operator, I would be in serious trouble if, like the black-cab driver hired by South West Trains to take a stranded woman home from Waterloo (report, later editions, July 25), I had worked for an eight-hour shift and then driven to Dundee.

Are black-cab drivers not subject to the same hours restrictions as other commercial drivers?

Yours etc.  
GERRY ORME  
(Director),  
Transgo International,  
14 South Street



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
July 30: The Queen, Patron, Royal Academy of Arts, received Sir Philip Dowson (President) and Mr Piers Rodgers (Secretary).

His Excellency Mr Mohamed Lessir and Mrs Lessir were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Tunisia to the Court of St James.

Her Excellency Mrs Sheelagh de Osuna was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of her predecessor and her own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

Mr Philip Astley (Director, Protocol, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was present. Sir Denis Henderson (First Crown Estate Commissioner) was received by Her Majesty.

The Queen this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Headquarters of the National Art Collections Fund and was received at Millais House, Cromwell Place, London SW1, by the Chairman (Sir Nicholas Goodison).

Her Majesty later toured the building and met members of staff.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, today left Finland for a visit to Sweden and Norway.

Sir Brian McGrath is in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Alhaji Haroun Buhari at 33 Portland Place, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Sierra Leone in London.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

July 30: The Duke of York today visited the Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington.

July 30: The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Washington, United States of America.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
July 30: The Prince of Wales today undertook engagements in Dwyd and was received by Major Kenneth Buckley (Vice-Lieutenant).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning visited craft workshops at Clog Pencarreg, Aberaeron.

The Prince of Wales, Vice-Patron, the National Trust, later visited Llanerchaeron to view the Dwr Cymru-Welsh Water Treatment Plant and opened the new Aberporth Youth Club.

Finally, The Prince of Wales, Patron, Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, toured the site of the proposed National Botanic Garden in Middleton, near Llanarthney.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
July 30: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Thomas on relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer The 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Howard Gill on assuming this appointment.

Her Royal Highness subsequently attended a Garden Party, given by "The Not Forgotten" Association for the Ex-Service disabled, at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness subsequently attended a Garden Party, given by "The Not Forgotten" Association for the Ex-Service disabled, at Buckingham Palace.

## The Duke of York takes a close look at Trident

THE Duke of York, a lieutenant-commander in the Royal Navy, took a close look at the US Navy's most powerful weapon, a Trident submarine, on a three-day working visit to Seattle.

The Duke flew by helicopter to the navy's Bangor submarine base, about 20 miles west of Seattle on Hood Canal.

After meeting Admiral William Carter, commander of Navy Base Seattle and other officers, Prince Andrew was taken to the USS *Nevada*, one of eight missile-firing Trident submarines based there.

He stood on deck for a few minutes as the crew demonstrated movement of the periscope and other gear on the conning tower, and opened one of the missile bay doors. The submarine's skipper, Captain Lynn Wessman, then guided him below decks.

Prince Andrew was shown missile control, navigation control and the bridge. The crew ran simulations of various situations, including a dive.

After spending more than an hour on board *Nevada* the Duke went on to the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island.

At a dinner in Seattle, Prince Andrew spoke of Britain's relationship with north-western United States and noted that many companies there, including Boeing, have strong commercial ties with the United Kingdom. "I hope by being here tonight that I can encourage you to continue to make friends," he said.

Later he visited the Boeing plant where 747, 767 and 777 airliners are built.



The Duke of York returns the salute of air crewman Mark Harvey on his arrival at the US Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Canton, scientist, Stow, Gloucestershire, 1718; John Ericsson, inventor of the screw propeller, Langbanshyttan, Sweden, 1803.

DEATHS: St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, Rome, 1556; Maarten Tromp, Dutch admiral, off the coast of Holland, 1653; Benoît Fourneyron, inventor of the water turbine, Paris, 1867; Andrew Johnson, 17th American President 1865-69, Tennessee, 1875; Frans Listz, composer and pianist, Bayreuth, 1886; Jean Jaures, socialist leader, assassinated, Paris, 1914; Sir Francis Younghusband, explorer and writer, Lytchett Minster, Dorset, 1942; Owen Nares, actor-manager, Brecon, 1943.

Dr Hawley Crippen and his mistress, Ethel Le Neve, disguised as a boy, were arrested, for the murder of his wife, onboard the SS *Montrose*, 1910.

The third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) began, 1917.

Cigarette commercials were banned on British television, 1965.

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Her Royal High



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Expletives must be protected or their force will fade

## The dark magic of the F-word

Poor old *Kaleidoscope*. The worthy Radio 4 afternoon arts programme had been rapped on the knuckles by the Broadcasting Standards Council as if it were *Chris Evans or The Grittie Show*. The reason? During a live discussion one of its contributors let slip the word that is top of the BSC's list as most offensive to the public.

The continuing power of this centuries-old monosyllable is gratifying. Its shock value has not disappeared, despite the fears of people such as Paul Johnson that the bourgeoisie has adopted the language of the lower classes. Yet the F-word still strikes many people with the crack of a rifle shot and, thanks to the solicitude of politicians, there's plenty they can do about it.

Britain expends an impressive amount of money and energy on preserving the taboo on bad language. Those worried citizens battling to save the BBC World Service



BRENDA MADDOX

of offensiveness, and also that it was used "in a moment of stress".

The hardest cases that come before the eight-member BSC involve the Christian holy names — sacred syllables to believers, prosaic exclamations to the rest. But the council lays down one absolute. It sees no justification for the use of the F-word before the 9pm watershed.

For that, may one say "thank God"? My plea to the broadcasters is to carry on deleting. We need our explosive words. If this wickedest of expletives is not to fade to the faint force of "fudge", it must be fenced round and protected like any other endangered turf. Would *Four Weddings and a Funeral* have got off to its brilliant start without the opening string of "Piss" uttered in the well-fret tones of Hugh Grant?

Newspapers hardly have an easier time with this word. There is still no consensus about its printability. *The Times* favours, as above, the \*\*\* formula. Some other papers go the whole hog. None to my knowledge is as prim as the good grey *New York Times* — "100 Years Old Next Month — God Bless Her" — which does not permit even coded allusion. When I tried to convey an Emma Thompson quote for that paper, I was asked to delete it entirely and substitute the separate sentence "She used a barnyard expletive" instead.

Why does the word retain its dark magic? It's been around long enough. The *Oxford English Dictionary* gives the year 1503 as its first citation for this transitive verb for sexual connection. I would have guessed it was older. During Victorian times the word went underground and did not really surface until 1922, when James Joyce got a French printer to set it in type for *Ulysses*.

Now the BSC is not stocked with prudes, but with broadminded citizens such as Lady Howe and *The Times'* Matthew Parris. They carry out the statutory obligations laid down by the Broadcasting Act of 1990. They do not ban the F-word outright. They upheld its use during the Channel 4 showing of *Peter's Friends* in February because it was on a minority channel after 9pm.

If further proof of verbal tolerance is needed, the BSC's June report dismisses complaints against "bollocks", "pissed", "bulshit" and "bugger off". It even forgets "shit" on *The Archers* on the ground that this word is not rated high on the BSC scale

## Moving up and onwards

SINCE leaving what could arguably be described as the least enviable job in Britain, Dominique Vulliamy, the former press secretary to the Duchess of York, has not been idling away her new-found leisure-time.

The amiable Ms Vulliamy has been busy securing herself a job as producer of BBC1's *Kilroy* and helpfully assisting *Guardian* journalists with their articles.

Currently, Ms Vulliamy can be found at Canary Wharf, where she has taken a temporary job as a junior features executive with the *Daily Mirror*, a newspaper no longer on the Duchess's Christmas card list.

It was the *Mirror* which printed the photographs of the Duchess receiving a pedicure from John Bryan, her financial advisor. The *Mirror* also got the exclusive that Ms



Ex-boss: Duchess of York

Vulliamy had quit her job with the Duchess.

• **GOOD news for staff at The Observer who are pining for their dearly departed editor, Andrew Jaspan.**

It was the *Mirror* which printed the photographs of the Duchess receiving a pedicure from John Bryan, her financial advisor. The *Mirror* also got the exclusive that Ms

• **Thanks to a new career break Jaspan, bundled out of his job in March after sitting in the editor's chair for a year and one week, will not be far away.**

He is taking up the post of

managing editor and publisher of weekly magazine *The Big Issue*. Fortunately, the issue's offices in Clerkenwell Road, London, are less than spitting distance from *The Observer*'s bunker for anyone who feels like buying him a welcome home drink.

### Don't quote me

A LOT of huffing and puffing could be heard coming from Madeleine Pallas, LWT's no-nonsense press officer, this week. She was indignant about a "misleading" report in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* which claimed that Jeremy Beadle's programme, *Jerome's About*, had been axed mid-series.

While extolling the virtues of the "high quality" prank show, Ms Pallas complained long and loud about scurrilous tabloid journalists whom she said "completely misrepresented the facts" and "make quotes up when they feel like it".

Strangely enough, Ms Pallas was, until recently, an established showbiz reporter for *The Sun* and the *Daily Star* and whose claim to fame



Victim: Jeremy Beadle

was a front-page splash in which she boasted "Gazza tried to chat me up".

### Qing for a sniff

A NEW promotions gimmick has been causing consternation at high street newsagents.

Paco Rabanne, piloting a device — to promote its unisex fragrance, Paco — which will replace the sickly-smelling scent strips. The new system

called micro-encapsulation enables the perfume to be impregnated into the page but the smell is not released until the wrist is rubbed across it.

An unfortunate by-product, however, is that customers who fancy a free dab of perfume while browsing in Menzies are being observed furiously rubbing their wrists across Q magazine. "From a distance, it can look quite obscene," says one sales assistant.

### Careful Chris

COULD the Scottish air be getting to Chris Evans, presenter of Radio 1's *Breakfast Show*, who, for the past few days, has been broadcasting the show from Inverness?

Listeners have been treated to hearing Evans, one of Britain's highest paid entertainers, rant on about his staff's salaries and moan obsessively about paying for a plate of sandwiches in his hotel.

He also admitted that after filling up his hire car with petrol this week, he was so loathe to give it back with a half full tank that he "drove round in circles 17 times in first gear".

## Taking death with a pinch of salt



Views on illegal flyposting are divided: wall art or eyesore

AVOID death, religion and bad language in your press and poster advertising if you do not want to offend the nation, says the Advertising Standards Authority in a hefty study published this week.

The independent research was commissioned in response to the increase in complaints about taste and decency in print ads. Last year's beefs filed with the ASA were up 33 per cent on 1994, while gripes are up a further 25 per cent so far this year.

Advertisers should also eschew using images of women as sex objects and bear in mind a developing sensitivity among men, with 15 per cent raising objections to the similar misuse of males.

Some findings were heartening. Almost 75 per cent say they are "entertained" or "amused" by press and poster ads, while 63 per cent even believe they are "educational and informative".

### ADVERTISING

But lurking among the data is one specific statistic which agencies might wish to cover up pretty smartly. Seventy per cent of those polled said that all advertising should be "taken with a pinch of salt".

SEVERAL players within the outdoor advertising industry are trying to drum up support to get flyposting legalised, motivated by research which suggests the industry loses £25 million in revenue each year because of illegal sites.

The move, however, is not being universally supported. Francis Goodwin, managing editor of *Maiden Outdoor* and a key industry figure, is fighting to keep it illegal.

Some findings were heartening. Almost 75 per cent say they are "entertained" or "amused" by press and poster ads, while 63 per cent even believe they are "educational and informative".

ers each year on pasting flyposters would necessarily cross over into far more expensive, legitimate sites.

"If flyposting were legalised it would be a bit like getting your mum to organise a rave," he observed.

ADVERTISING folk, being of a creative bent, like to invent new vocabulary. Over recent weeks they have coined such mystifying terms as "tissue meetings", "footprint sessions" and "paradigm shifting" to impress clients and baffle rival agencies.

But now Howell Henry Chaldeon Lury, renowned for eschewing official job titles, is introducing a key term of its own. Its joint creative chief, Steve Henry, from now on wishes to be called "coach" rather than "creative partner". That's coach as in tutor, rather than National Express.

BELINDA ARCHER

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APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO PETER LEDERER OBE, THE GLENEAGLES HOTEL, AUCHTERARDER, PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND, PH3 1HF. TEL: 01764 694401. FAX: 01764 664444. INTERNET ADDRESS: [HTTP://WWW.GLENAGLES.COM/](http://www.glenagles.com/)



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**THE Sun** **NEWS OF THE WORLD**

THE TIMES

From ice-cream fizzy drinks a motor cars, the compilation has become the latest weapon in advertiser's armoury. Carol M...

W

Y

S

... The press's main market suddenly had to find a new identity as the old one disappeared. The brand's market share had been overtaken by a new competitor, being done away with. Some of the old ones have survived, others have not. Some of the new ones have...

... The press

# The sounds of success

From ice-cream to fizzy drinks and motor cars, the compilation album has become the latest weapon in the advertiser's armoury, reports Carol Midgley

**W**ith Euro 96 now a fond but distant memory, negotiations are already under way to secure one of the most coveted sponsorship projects of World Cup 98. The discussions centre not on football players' strips, which razors they use, or who owns television rights, but on another area of sponsorship which is now becoming almost as lucrative — the theme music.

Consider the fact that virtually every man, woman and child who watched Euro 96 has heard the English anthem *Three Lions*, and it is obvious that, these days, if you want to get a message across, the way to the nation's heart is through its Sony Walkman.

Coca-Cola pulled off a masterstroke by bagging for itself the sponsorship of the official Euro 96 album *The Beautiful Game*, which immediately sprinted to the top ten in the compilation charts and, for a few weeks at least, became the bible of the young and streetwise.

But the growth of music as the new advertising medium is not confined simply to sport. Almost as though it has crept up on us when we were not looking, music has established itself as the most effective way to attach a "feel-good" factor to a product.

**Y**ou may not have noticed, but a compilation CD, *Summer Vibes*, which recently streaked up the charts, came to you courtesy of Polygram and the orange drink, Sunkist.

Frustated perhaps by its rival Tango's stronghold on the teenage market, Sunkist decided it wanted to appeal to a younger clientele. The company wanted to capitalise on the summer weather to launch its new, fresher image and in June launched a double CD crammed with 40 "feel-good" tracks ranging from *Summer-time*, by DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, to *Too Hot*, by Coolio. The arrangement suited Polygram, who wanted to sell to the same market.

The result? An instant hit, which meant that thousands of teenagers suddenly had CD cover bearing Sunkist's logo (a smiling orange sun) on their bedroom shelves. Not only that, but 13 million cans of the drink also offered the chance to win a three-track sampler.

The opportunities to increase brand penetration in the music market are great: compilation albums make up 30 per cent of the record market. But because the concept is so new, research has yet to be done to determine how much the brand's name penetrates the consciousness of the purchaser.

Some of the advertising is so subtle that it is almost subliminal. The front cover of the *Unlaced* compilation



The sound of Häagen-Dazs: the ice-cream company's double CD was aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds and reached silver status in the charts

CD, for example, launched last year by Doc Martens footwear, simply depicts part of an unlaced boot and the names of the Britpop bands — Blur, Suede, Pulp — featured. Only the most meticulous would spot the tiny Doc Martens logo in the bottom left-hand corner on the back.

"You have to respect your audience — that's the golden rule," says Rick Blaskey, the man who masterminded the project. "With *Unlaced*, the audience were young, streetwise, student types who have a cynicism about advertising that is too in-your-face."

Blaskey, a former record company and advertising executive, has created and virtually cornered the market with his London-based company Music & Media Partnership, which acts as a marriage broker between the brand and record managers.

With the company motto "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rocks or bend a

knotted oak", he has organised a string of successful "marriages". Blaskey reasoned that since people could still remember the "I'd like to teach the world to sing" advert for Coca-Cola from the 1970s, the power of music as an advertising device was awesome.

"Frankly, I'm amazed it hasn't been done before," he says. "Music can lift people and touch their souls like almost nothing else. Songs stay with people for life; they are the perfect marketing device."

By combining music with brands, the brand is given an opportunity to reach its target audience — but in an environment it could never normally reach."

Häagen-Dazs jumped onto the bandwagon, launching a double CD with EMI full of smoochy love songs to complement the sheer-indulgence image of the ice-cream. It was aimed at 18 to 35-year-old ABCIs. The cover featured a photograph of two semi-

naked lovers spooning Häagen-Dazs into each others' mouths. It worked. The album reached silver status in the charts (sales of 60,000-plus). Häagen-Dazs says the sponsored CD fitted in with the company's offbeat image and was "a way of challenging our consumers to think of ice-cream in a different way".

**F**or some music purists, the idea of creating an album to push a commercial product is anathema. One record company executive says: "We consider it all a bit naff. To be credible with music, you have got to stay a bit rebellious. It doesn't work to treat music too commercially."

The most successful sponsored album to date is this year's *True Brit*, with Polygram and the Rover Mini. Rover's predicament was that the Mini had a nostalgic image in Britain, while they wanted to draw in a young market. A collection of

Britpop songs was compiled and the album shot to number seven.

Fiona Beeching, the head of sales and marketing for Polygram, says: "We have done five sponsored albums so far, all of which have reached the charts. But the concept is still at a fledgling stage and we are very selective about which brands we work with."

"There is an enormous scope for development and it is a great device to enable both partners to reach a target audience in new outlets. But the partnership has to be absolutely right. If it is not done properly it could be disastrous for all concerned."

Blaskey, meanwhile, is also in earnest discussions about the music for the Rugby World Cup in 1999. "Because it is being held in Wales, we are looking at using Welsh choir music updated for the 1990s," he says. "It will be very evocative — one to watch out for."

*The Times Higher Education Supplement*, which sells 27,000 copies a week, put its job ads on the Net in January last year and Internet users — many of them academics working overseas — can study the ads before the main paper is printed. On peak days they get 1,500 hits.

As an old-fashioned newsman, I doubt that I shall ever feel at home on the Internet. It is the under-30s who find it easy to surf the Net — and as sales of printed newspapers gently decline it is to their generation that newspapers must appeal if they are to develop and survive in the next millennium.

None of the editors of Internet papers believe they are presiding over the death of the traditional newspaper — but they do believe that they are giving them the breath of life for new generations.

**U**nder a deal with GQ readers can study a car on screen, select colour schemes and e-mail for a brochure — or move their mouse to any item of men's fashion and click for merchandising and a list of stockists. *Tatler* on the Internet offers a guide to 350 restaurants; readers tap in their request for a £30 dinner in a south London or Mayfair French restaurant and up comes a selection of recommendations. There are now 160,000 regular users and about 60,000 hits a month.

## When political poachers turn gamekeepers

Journalists are in demand as party spin doctors, says Simon Brooke

TOMORROW morning the Tories' new chief broadcasting officer begins work at Central Office. Anthony Gordon-Lennox will be charged with liaising between the party and the broadcast media, fielding ministers for interview, attempting to make sure that the Tory message gets across on TV and radio, and arguing with journalists and their editors when he or his seniors feel it hasn't. It is a tough job. I should know. I used to do it.

Mr Gordon-Lennox, however, has one qualification that I did not: until recently he was a working journalist — on the BBC's *Question Time* and more recently *The Mid-night Hour*.

Working journalists can also see the advantages in party press officers having journalistic experience. "It's a huge advantage," says *The Times* political editor, Philip Webster, whose former colleague Sheila Gunn is now at the Tory press office. "They know our requirements and you don't tend to get quite as much rubbish from them. They will be trying to provide something they think has a better chance of making the paper, not just whatever the politicians think will be news."

In the last few years those who have crossed this journalistic Rubicon have discov-



Campbell: Tony Blair's adviser



Johnson: unhappy time at Labour



Lewington: coup for the Tories

ered that they can return. Former Tory media officer Jo-Anne Nadler has gone back to the BBC as a producer, and Mr Holden is producing and presenting documentaries at Meridian. Most surprisingly, Ms Johnson is now making political programmes for Scottish Television. Mr Webster is not surprised: "Somebody who has been on the other side of the fence and has seen how the Tory or Labour machine operates can clearly give something back."

But for those now servicing the needs of their former colleagues' old habits die hard. One spin doctor with a year in the job says: "I hear things and think 'Hey! What a story' but I've got to shut up about it. Very often instead of working up a story you have to kill it or make sure no one finds out about it."

## I have seen the future, and it lurks in a laptop



**P**aper or a register of MPs' interests. It's Euro 96 Web site, developed with Vauxhall and Lowe Howard-Spink, got 500,000 "hits" a day and was one of the 100 hottest Web sites in the world.

One of the buzzwords when you surf the Net is interactivity. Angry, delighted or perplexed readers can send e-mail to Internet papers instantly — and both the *Internet Times* and *Electronic Telegraph* get up to 100 e-mails a day. "They make us feel much closer to our readers," says Derek Bishion, the Editor of *ET*. "Our Internet readers don't have to stand on ceremony and we sense more honest responses."

Classified advertising is also proving popular. Seeking to buy a car or a holiday, you can click on Ford or BMW or Spain or France and go instantly to their ads. At *Conde Nast*, where *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Tatler* and *World of Interiors* have been on the Net since last November, advertising is developing into an Internet art-form.

**U**nder a deal with GQ readers can study a car on screen, select colour schemes and e-mail for a brochure — or move their mouse to any item of men's fashion and click for merchandising and a list of stockists. *Tatler* on the Internet offers a guide to 350 restaurants; readers tap in their request for a £30 dinner in a south London or Mayfair French restaurant and up comes a selection of recommendations. There are now 160,000 regular users and about 60,000 hits a month.

Our small screen has made the big screen.

Our in-flight entertainment system didn't have to audition to star in *Mission: Impossible*, which we'll be screening from September.

BEST OVERALL INFLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT AWARD 1995-96

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

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## NEWS

## Howard defeat over Bulger sentence

■ Michael Howard suffered his twelfth defeat at the hands of the judiciary yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that he had acted unfairly in setting a minimum 15-year sentence on the two boys who murdered James Bulger.

The judges criticised the Home Secretary's perfunctory and flawed approach to the case and said he should not have heeded petitions demanding that the two boys never be released. They said the tariff should be quashed. **Pages 1, 2, 15**

## Government war on strikers

■ Curbs on 24-hour strikes and multimillion-pound fines on unions provoking disruptive disputes in monopoly public services such as the Post Office and the London Underground are being actively considered by the Government. Union leaders rejected the postal deal worked out last week. **Page 1**

## Olympic inquest

The Government asked to meet the British Olympic Association over the lack of success at the Games. A debriefing session was set up for when the team returns to London next week. **Page 1**

## Embryo offer

An offer by Italian doctors backed by a pro-life group which includes two elderly nuns to buy 3,300 frozen human embryos due to be destroyed tomorrow has been rejected. **Pages 1, 15**

## Short complains

Clare Short criticised Tony Blair for the way she had been demoted last week, as the Labour leader promoted some of his leading traditionalist and modernising MPs. **Page 2**

## Up in the air

Plans by British Airways and American Airlines to merge many of their operations were upset when BA was sued by its partner, USAir. **Page 2**

## Stalker theory

A stalker probably followed Lin Russell in the days before she was ambushed and bludgeoned to death with her six-year-old daughter, police said. **Page 3**

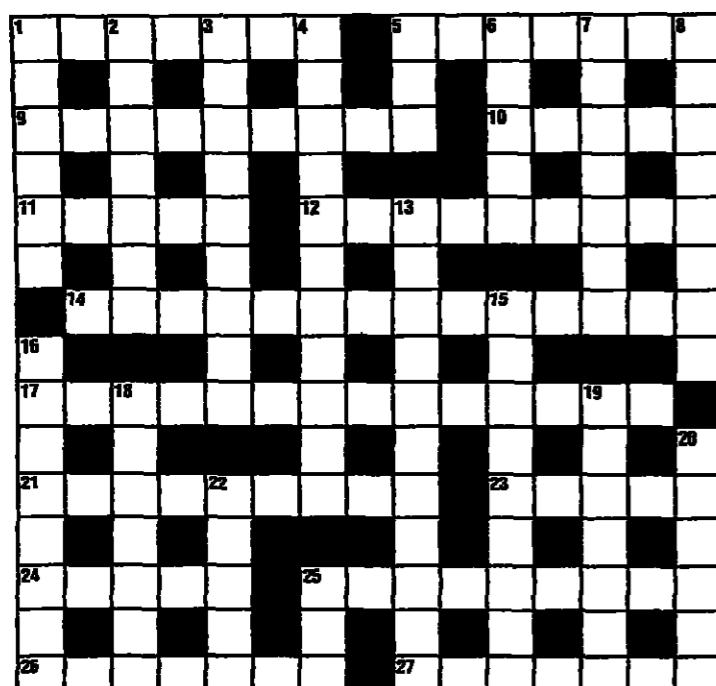
## Football pay gap

Fourteen years after Paul Elliott and Alan Shearer were in the same under-12 team, both earn £180. Elliott makes his in a week, Shearer in an hour. **Page 11**

## The naked truth about the Costa Brava

■ Descriptions such as "charm is not a word that springs to mind when talking about Lloret" will feature in Thomson's new brochures, which aim to tell holidaymakers the truth about what to expect at their chosen resort. Britain's biggest tour operator decided to come clean partly to comply in advance with European consumer legislation. **Page 1**

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,234



ACROSS  
1 Hurried to catch sleep missed (7).  
5 Create ornamental edging, look inside prize (7).  
9 Almost expect to scupper game (9).  
10 Mum is head of household, not second (5).  
11 Come to admire achievement, in part (5).  
12 Tried once, when drunk, to be abstruse (9).  
14 Crunch arboreal bits for him to process? (8,6).  
17 Fruiti that's got one well (6,3,5).  
21 Is this colour wise/not wise? (4,5).  
23 More tense in audition? The solution's concentration (5).  
24 Visitor supposed to come from America, we hear (5).  
25 Distinguished group of bosses right (9).  
  
Solution to Puzzle No 20,233

IMMODEST BILLION  
MAE ASD E I  
PINUP NOTHINGON  
O O D C O I D  
SAFETYPIN MOTTO  
T S I S A W  
ONSIGHT DATIVE  
R I R I I P  
POTASH UNCOVER  
V V Y N A O  
IVORY ENDEMICAL  
E X B N S A I  
WALKONAIR SCOFF  
E I A S G S U I  
DEPUTY FORENSIC

26 Easing of tension as river falls outside lodge (7).  
27 Feeble line into transmitter (7).

DOWN  
1 Ball's stratum of society (6).  
2 Censure statement by self-proclaimed beauty (7).  
3 One may get loaded, playing poker with cash (9).  
4 Impede one with zero value – unable to do this? (11).  
5 Note part of London with nothing to lose (3).  
6 Lumatic losing head is persuasive type (5).  
7 Reluctant Scot in his home territory? (7).  
8 Garden area – section with almost produced bloomers? (8).  
13 Northern natives in canoe, lads capsizing (11).  
15 French article, a food not fit for consumption (9).  
16 Male fool of advanced years treated in parlour (8).  
18 Something imaginative with soft rather than loud colour (7).  
19 Old country full of potholes? (7).  
20 Metal ruler used by one wickling power (6).  
22 Succeed in good school (3,2).  
25 Half the pieces of paper in a book (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest report by regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 200 followed by appropriate code. Greater London: 020 7400 1000. Don't Hairs & Jow: 020 7400 1001. Devon & Cornwall: 01392 430000. Somerset: 01963 840000. Bath, Bux, Oxon: 01225 840000. Beds, Herts & Essex: 01206 840000. West Mids & Shrop & Gwent: 01938 840000. Shrop, Herefs & Worcs: 01565 840000. East Midlands: 0115 840000. Derby & Cheshire: 01625 840000. Gwynedd & Cardif: 01286 840000. N W England: 0161 840000. N & E England: 01924 840000. Cumbria, Lancs & S W Scotland: 01229 840000. W Central Scotland: 0141 840000. West Scotland & Islands: 01460 840000. E Central Scotland: 0131 840000. Galloway & E Highland: 01671 840000. N & E Scotland: 0131 840000. Caithness, Orkney & Shetland: 01856 840000. Weatherfax charges at 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 60p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0892 401 followed by appropriate code. London: 0892 401000. East Mids: 0892 401001. N & E England: 0892 401002. West Mids: 0892 401003. N & E Scotland: 0892 401004. Scotland: 0892 401005. AA Roadwatch is charged at 20p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p per minute at all other times.

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.23 am Sun sets: 8.50 pm Moon rises: 6.49 pm Moon sets: 9.07 pm  
Last quarter August 21. Sun rises 5.23 am. Blood 8.59 pm to 5.34 am. Edinburgh 9.22 pm to 5.17 am. Manchester 9.06 pm to 5.25 am. Penzance 9.06 pm to 5.51 am.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULES

## SEASIDE

## LONDON TO FRANKFURT

## £109 return

## LONDON TO COPENHAGEN

## £149 return

## LONDON TO GENEVA

## £149 return

## LONDON TO ROME

## £149 return

## LONDON TO MADRID

## £149 return

## LONDON TO BARCELONA

## £149 return

## LONDON TO LISBON

## £149 return

## LONDON TO COLOGNE

## £149 return

## LONDON TO FLORENCE

## £149 return

## LONDON TO ROME

## £149 return

## LONDON TO MADRID

## £149 return

## LONDON TO BARCELONA

## £149 return

## LONDON TO LISBON

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JULY 31 1996

Group profits drop to £302 million for first half of year

## NatWest to close 300 branches



Wanless: opportunities

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ALMOST 300 NatWest Bank branches are to close over the next four years, with the potential loss of 10,000 jobs — almost a quarter of the present workforce.

The bank said that new technology, the public's enthusiasm for "hole-in-the-wall" cash machines, and competition was forcing it to reduce its branch network to 1,750 by the year 2000, compared with 2,046 branches at present and nearly 2,770 four years ago.

Service centres dealing with back-office administration, will be cut from 150 to 50.

The cost of restructuring and redundancy payments contributed towards a dramatic

drop in group profits from £872 million to £302 million for the first half of the year.

The disappointing result saw shares tumbling 12p to 616p in spite of the group's announcement that it was spending £450 million buying back its own shares. NatWest said that it had bought back 72 million shares at 626p per share, equivalent to just over 4 per cent of its issued share capital.

The figures included a £224 million gain on the sale of the bank's interest in 3i, the venture capital company, and a £690 million loss on the disposal of Bancorp, its US retail and commercial banking operation in May this year.

Lord Alexander of Weeden,

NatWest chairman, refused to say how many jobs would go, but Bifu, the banking, insurance and finance union, estimated that the figure could be as high as 10,000. At present, NatWest employs 45,000 people, down from 67,000 in 1990.

Restructuring cost NatWest UK, the retail arm, £675 million in the first half (£760 million), leaving a total pre-tax profit of £248 million (£30 million).

Richard Goeltz, group chief financial officer, gave a warning that costs could continue and that although NatWest Group intended to reduce cost-income ratios to 63 per cent over five years, there would "not be a smooth downward curve". Analysts said that this

put NatWest at a disadvantage to some of its high street rivals, particularly Barclays, which is already well on the way with its restructuring programme and has a tighter control of costs.

NatWest Group comprises NatWest UK, Lombard, the loans division, Ulster, NatWest Markets, and Comus, the private bank. The loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was £11 million, compared with a profit of £85 million for the same period in 1995.

This led to a loss per share of 6.3p, compared with earnings per share of 33.8p for the comparable six months of 1995. However, the interim dividend has been raised from

8.4p to 9.6p. Although analysts welcomed the share buyback, they said that NatWest would probably have preferred to spend the money on making an acquisition.

Derek Wanless, group chief executive, said the bank wanted to expand to take up opportunities in the long-term savings market, but had "not found a candidate that fits all our criteria".

NatWest's bad debt charge was £45 million higher at £270 million, which, Mr Wanless said, was partly down to problems with customers at Lombard who were not repaying loans.

Bifu gave a warning that the standard of service to customers would fall as staff worked

longer hours. "New technology should be freeing up staff to give better service, but instead they are facing ever greater pressure," a spokeswoman said.

The branch closure programme leaves rural communities in the lurch and forces customers into using cash machines and telephone banking, which they may not want to do. We would like NatWest to consult local people first."

Mr Wanless said that the decision to close a branch was taken by local managers. More than 125,000 jobs and 2,500 branches have been lost in the industry as a whole since 1990.

Pennington, page 25

## Whitbread picks up Pelican for £133m

BY PAUL DURMAN

WHITBREAD is continuing its push into the restaurant and leisure markets with the £133.1 million acquisition of Pelican Group, owner of the Café Rouge and Dôme chains of French style restaurants and cafe bars.

Café Rouge is well known in many of the more fashionable parts of London, but has opened up only recently in other major cities. Whitbread intends to add up to 100 more to the existing chain of 66.

Whitbread's offer of 170p a share — 17 per cent higher than Pelican's share price



Roger Myers, founder and chairman of Pelican, and Karen Jones, the co-founder and managing director, at a Café Rouge restaurant

## Pension complaints leap 66%

BY SARA McCONNELL

JULIAN FARRAND, the pensions ombudsman, yesterday described as "unexpected and unwelcome" a 66 per cent rise in complaints about personal and occupational pensions to his office last year. A total 3,639 initial complaints were screened more than in any earlier year in the office's five-year history.

Even allowing for "one-off" complaints, the rise was, Dr Farrand said, "troubling as a barometer of the numbers dissatisfied with treatment under pension schemes". The total caseload, after screening and withdrawal or abandonment of some complaints, was 829.

A rise in court appeals against his decisions could threaten the ombudsman's role as provider of a cheap, informal service, he said.

Tempus, page 26

## Think-tank warns Clarke against cuts

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, is given a warning today against cutting interest rates or taxes if he means to hit his inflation target.

In its latest economic outlook published today, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research says that there is a more than 40 per cent chance that the Government will fail to deliver inflation of 2.5 per cent or less.

"This suggests that far from adding further to demand in the economy, a government which takes its inflation target seriously should be seeking to restrain it," the institute says.

The warning comes the day after Mr Clarke met Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, for their monthly monetary meeting. The meeting lasted for only 35 minutes and the Bank dealt at unchanged rates in the money

market. Since the Chancellor normally signals any change to the markets at the first possible opportunity, the City is assuming that rates have been left unchanged.

In spite of the fact that the institute, headed by Martin Weale, one of the Chancellor's

panel of independent forecasters, argues against cuts in either rates or taxes, it believes that the Chancellor will do both. In its economic forecasts it is assuming one pence off the basic rate of income tax and another 1 point off interest rates.

Referring to the latter, the institute says: "To make such a cut would be to ignore the build-up of expansionary pressure, which the Treasury has identified and with which we concur." The only justification for lower rates would be if they are accompanied by a sharp

tightening of fiscal policy. The institute says that the income tax cut, which it expects in November, is likely to be accompanied by promises of a cut in public spending, but it doubts that this could be achieved. It gave a warning that scepticism about further cuts in public spending could provoke unfavourable market comment, and that this "may reduce any political benefit to be gained by such a Budget".

The institute forecasts that growth will total 2.1 per cent this year, accelerating sharply to 3.4 per cent in 1997. This compares with the Treasury's most recent forecasts of 2.5 per cent and 3.25 per cent.

But it is more pessimistic on inflation, predicting that underlying inflation will be 2.7 per cent by the end of next year, compared with the Treasury's forecast of 2.25 per cent.

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National Express said it could not agree to promoting rivals without guarantees that they would provide an equal level of quality and safety.

Michael Davies, chairman, said: "We are naturally disappointed at the decision. We are convinced that the undertakings sought would not be in the best interests of the travelling public."

## Shares depressed by US jitters

SHARES in London suffered again at the hands of American consumers confidence during July. Trading is likely to remain nervous until Friday's key US employment report.

The FT-SE 100 index recouped some of the session's losses, but it still closed down 10.3 points, at 3,668.5. In early afternoon trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was roughly

undone again by a surge in American consumer confidence during July. Trading is likely to remain nervous until Friday's key US employment report.

American labour costs rose by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter, compared with market expectations of a 0.9 per cent increase. Sales of new homes dropped by 5.3 per cent in June, suggesting that higher mortgage rates are beginning to take their toll. Home sales were also revised down from March to May.

## Midland Main Line deal sent to MMC

BY JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL EXPRESS'S winning bid for the Midland Main Line InterCity rail franchise was yesterday referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after the company refused demands to promote rival coach services.

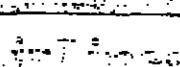
Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said that the terms of the coach group's ten-year franchise "raises competition concerns in the market for the supply of coach and rail services" between London and the Midlands.

The decision came as National Express rejected Mr Lang's request to use its "best endeavours" to allow other operators to start coach services on its routes between London and five Midlands cities.

Mr Lang said: "The company have indicated that they are not prepared to give the undertakings which I was seeking." Instead, National Express had offered to limit fare increases to the inflation rate and maintain existing service levels on the relevant coach routes and to restrict advance purchase rail fare increases.

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Michael Davies, chairman, said: "We are naturally disappointed at the decision. We are convinced that the undertakings sought would not be in the best interests of the travelling public."

**Delta** 

Britain's Olympic team chose to fly with Delta Air Lines. And no wonder, we fly non-stop to Atlanta in just 8 hours and 55 minutes, and we have more flights there than anyone else.

# Ordnance Survey charts a path to sell-off

By Fraser Nelson

ORDNANCE SURVEY, the Government's map-producing company, yesterday released its plans to prepare itself for its privatisation review in 1999. The agency said, in its annual report, that it will "clarify the obstacles to privatising Ordnance Survey so that the costs and benefits of a change of status can be assessed".

The agency said that it would become a "solution provider", pro-

viding tailor-made computer-based map devices for clients in the public and private sectors. Among other plans, it intends to issue each UK home with a digital identification number, which would reveal its exact location when entered into an Ordnance Survey computer.

It has also computerised every one of its maps, and plans to sell the software, which could accept the home identification numbers, to emergency services, local govern-

ment and the private sector. Other areas of development include producing "super-maps", which indicate bay windows and postboxes, which it would sell to construction firms and local government.

A third of Ordnance Survey's sales now come from royalties paid by rival map groups, including the A-Z street map group. The agency now generates more sales from software maps than from fold-out maps.

Ordnance Survey last year sued

two map companies that it accused of stealing its intellectual property. It is processing more claims, but most are settled out of court.

The agency said that the biggest drawback to privatisation is its duty to provide a UK-wide service, taking in many sparsely-populated areas whose maps have little commercial value. These maps are essential to emergency services handling incidents such as an air crash or an oil spill.

One option being considered is for

the Government to define which areas qualify as being in the national interest, and to agree to cover the maps' production fees.

In the year to 31 March, Ordnance Survey expanded its sales by 14 per cent, to £66.5 million, but losses grew to £19.1 million (£15.9 million). These were met by the Government. The agency currently covers 79 per cent of its costs, and aims to meet the Government-set target of 83 per cent by the end of the year.

## Challenge to tax and spending cut policy

By Janet Bush  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's long-term aims of reducing public spending below 40 per cent of gross domestic product and cutting taxes whenever economic conditions allow are bluntly challenged in an article today in the *National Institute Economic Review*.

Peter Oppenheimer and John Flemming, both of Oxford University, the latter a former chief economist at the Bank of England, question a number of key assumptions of Government policy. They argue there is no evidence, for example, that public borrowing leads to higher interest rates. Nor has experience justified the claim that lowering marginal tax rates at the upper end of the income scale unleashes entrepreneurial energies, they say.

In direct contradiction of the Government's aim to reduce public spending, they argue that there is a powerful case for allowing an extra 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent of GDP to be spent on health care and education: "This would not constitute a great bonanza but would permit very worthwhile, even urgent, improvements not presently attainable, while preserving appropriately rigorous control on total budgetary resources."

The article also questions the Government's claim that privatisation, contracting out, market reforms in the National Health Service and voucher systems in education, for example, will lead to savings on public spending.

Digital was also hit by slow personal computer sales, a slump in its European business and a restructuring charge of \$492 million pushed Digital Equipment Corp, the world's second-largest computer company, into loss in the fourth quarter.



Rodney Aldridge, left, Capita chairman and chief executive, and Paul Pindar, managing director, saw sales top £50 million

## Digital plans buyback of shares after quarter loss

By Eric Reguly

WEAK personal computer sales, a slump in its European business and a restructuring charge of \$492 million pushed Digital Equipment Corp, the world's second-largest computer company, into loss in the fourth quarter.

The downturn was expected and the stock was buoyed by the announcement that Digital would use some of its \$2 billion in cash — its highest level in five years — to

buyback up to 10 million of its 154 million common shares. The shares opened more than \$2 higher, at \$37.50, in New York trading but lost some momentum later in the day.

Digital reported a net loss of \$433 million, or \$2.87 per share, in the quarter to the end of June, against a profit of \$159 million, or \$1.01 per share, in the same quarter a year ago. Revenues were essentially flat at \$3.74 billion.

For the full year, Digital lost \$111 million against a profit of

\$122 million previously. Excluding the restructuring charge, net income for the quarter was \$59 million, or 33 cents per share. About three quarters of the charge will pay for some 7,000 redundancies over the next year, while the rest will cover factory consolidations and the like. Digital gave warning in early July that a restructuring charge was imminent.

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## Millennium meltdown 'solved'

By Jon Ashworth

PARITY, a London information technology company, claims to have developed a solution to the so-called millennium meltdown problem.

The company says it has found a way of dealing with the threat posed to computer systems on the first day of the new millennium, when at

midnight on December 31, 1999, many computer systems detecting the arrival of a year ending with "00" will either assume there has been an error and shut down, or will start the 20th century over again. This "timebomb" could lead to chaos for banks and

companies running payrolls as it would effectively wipe out vital financial records.

Parity said that its millennium solution, Parity 2000, was the "complete answer to a deceptively simply issue" but did not go into details.

Parity's shares closed 20p higher at 289p.

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□ NatWest's cuts pay off for shareholders □ Costing the oldest profession □ BA's friends and enemies

## Sawing off yet more branches

□ IT IS the classic 1990s double-bind. You hand out millions to shareholders because there is nothing else to do with the proceeds of earlier cost-cutting. At the same time you announce another round of sackings and closures to create the next lot of cost savings. The utilities have it down to a fine art, and yesterday the NatWest Group followed their lead.

This is, of course, deeply unfair because there is little reason why the bank and its rivals should be required to keep open branches that are no longer needed. But the alternative is hostile headlines about mass sackings, outrage from the union and a general sense among the nervous middle classes that they, as white collar staff, are getting the sort of treatment that should by rights be restricted to coalminers and factory workers.

NatWest handed £450 million back to its shareholders because had it not done so, the equivalent cash would only have piled up in its coffers before it could be spent. The bank still wants a life insurer, to add the last ingredient to the mix already assembled with the purchase of Gartmore and a couple of New York businesses. But even if a clear candidate emerges, the necessary demutualisation will take 18 months to complete.

NatWest's tier one capital ra-

ting, the City's measure of a bank's financial health and the mix between shareholders funds and assets weighted according to the risks they carry, stood at 7.6 per cent in June. By contrast the Bank of Scotland managed to float last week on about half this.

Throw in the share repurchase and other negatives and the NatWest ratio drops to perhaps 6.7 per cent. But in the time a life insurance deal would take, the normal course of business will push that ratio back again to where it was in June.

A profitable business, banking, and even more profitable without so many local branches.

Consider this: the average small country town contains one, at most two, of the Big Four. Neither much wants to be there, and if you hold the wrong debit card, you are one of the great unbanked in that town anyway. Technological change and telephone banking means that the only reason to keep many branches open is to service the small business market, which offers lousy margins in any case.

Next year four or more building societies arrive, adding even

more competition for retail customers. The most logical option to cut costs further is for the banks to pool their cash dispenser networks so just one high street hole in the wall serves all. But this they have shown themselves unwilling to do.

In 1992 Lloyds was not allowed to take over the Midland because of competition worries in the smaller business market. Three years later Lloyds was allowed to buy the TSB because their respective shares raised no such concerns. So the other option is further bank takeovers. The evidence suggests these may eventually have to be allowed.

### The business of bordellos

□ IT IS the year 1998, and a liberal-minded Labour government has been in power for more than 15 months. The debate about the legalisation of prostitution, sparked into life again by a couple of senior police officers two years ago, is over.

Who will run this newly

legalised, highly regulated and

entrepreneurs. Start small, add on a few houses, whether new openings or acquisitions, and hope to sell out to one of those leisure combines in due course.

Whitbread, for example, bought the once-tiny Cafe Rouge chain yesterday and David Lloyd's tennis clubs last year. Our hypothetical entrepreneur has built a business with the same intangible assets — brand loyalty, properties operating with the necessary planning consent and potential for expansion of the brand. He or she can expect the same high exit-multiple.

There are just two peculiarities. The staff will need highly unusual pension arrangements, to cater for early retirement — probably one of those increasingly popular money purchase schemes providing a pot of cash at a given date rather than a final salary scheme.

Second, though there are already legalised brothels quoted in Nevada and Australia, many will still find much of the above deeply offensive. Apologies: this column is adopting no moral stance. But quoted brothels must expect to join tobacco, drinks and

defence on any list of unethical investments — as must any leisure group prepared to add them to its portfolio.

### Wolf on the fold

□ THE courts see nothing more furious than an airline scorned. After Richard Branson, British Airways faces Stephen Wolf, whose formidable performance as rival at United Airlines made him a great catch to run BA's ailing associate USAir. Mr Wolf is not the sort to be content to be BA's number two wife in America, a seemingly inevitable role given the immensely superior weight of American Airlines.

BA still has plenty of friends, not least on the Commons Transport Select Committee, which is not one to take a narrow pedantic view of the national interest. But it has formidable enemies too, in a European Commission that still tends to be politically dominated by francophone protectionist interests, whatever its officials might prefer. Air France

commision is, perhaps not coincidentally, how to look at BA's plan to take full control of its small French associate.

The last thing BA needs, therefore, is a powerful enemy within its own camp. It is doubtful that USAir wants to wreck the American Airlines link, but it has a useful lever to secure something for itself and outside shareholders. This could involve a divorce from BA in favour of a more ardent alliance or gaining a closer link with American itself. BA cannot afford to palm Mr Wolf off with lawyers.

### Miracle cure

□ SPENDING on disability benefit in Britain has trebled over the past six years to £9 billion. Mad cow disease notwithstanding, there is no problem with the nation's health: instead, more rigorous checks are moving claimants on to the sick list courtesy of harassed or sympathetic doctors. By contrast, police in Naples started a crackdown three years ago on benefits fraud. Since then, the number of people claiming to be permanently ill has fallen by three quarters. In an appropriate echo of the New Testament, Rome's *Il Messaggero* newspaper headlined its report with a sardonic "Miracle at Naples: the disabled have been cured."

### AIB picks Quinn as chairman

Allied Irish Banks, Ireland's biggest bank, has appointed Lochlainn Quinn, brother of Ruairi Quinn, the Finance Minister, as chairman. He succeeds Jim Culliton, who is retiring after three years for personal reasons.

### Director ban

Stephen Less, a company director based in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, has been barred from serving as a director for nine years. The disqualification order was made in respect of Capital Leisure Management and 14 other companies. Creditors were owed more than £3 million.

### Profits dip

Mid-States, the automotive products supplier, saw pre-tax profits slip to £2.36 million (£2.44 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were 3p (3.2p), and there is an interim dividend of 0.24p (nil) a share.

### Fairway up

Fairway Group lifted pre-tax profits to £1.8 million (£1.7 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were 3.42p (3.62). There is an interim dividend of 1.40p (1.30p).

### Ventura deal

Ventura, the Leeds-based customer service management company, has won a £5 million contract to handle customer calls for BT Mobile's Paging Business, creating 120 jobs.

### Strong debut

Network Technology, the Sussex-based software group, saw its shares climb to a 9p premium in its first day on AIM. Network's software package, PeripheralVision, is expected to boost sales by £20 million this year.

## Remy forced to revise down profits by Fr130m

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

REMY-COINTREAU, the French drinks company, yesterday revealed that it had been forced to revise down its full-year profits by Fr130 million.

The revision was made after the company sought advice from French regulatory authorities over the balance-sheet valuation of the sale of its 26 per cent stake in Macallan-Glenlivet, the UK whisky company.

Remy, which was announcing its final results after a two-week delay, said that full-year profits fell 56 per cent to Fr120 million after the adjustment.

The company sold its 26 per cent stake in Macallan to Highland Distillers for £47 million earlier this year, although it still distributes many of Macallan's brands. Highland, which owns 17 per cent of Remy, recently took control of Macallan after an £180 million bid.

Remy, which issued a profit warning earlier this year, blamed the poor results on price rises hitting cognac sales. But sales of other products, especially of champagne and whisky, have improved.

Total group sales rose 1.2 per cent to Fr7.023 billion, equivalent to growth of 5.2 per cent at constant exchange rates.

Remy-Martin cognac sales fell 8 per cent, which analysts estimate would have resulted in a 40 per cent fall in profits from the cognac division.

But liqueurs, wines and other spirits gained across all markets, with champagne sales rising 3 per cent

and sales of Famous Grouse and Macallan whiskies performing especially strongly.

Remy added that that sales in the first quarter of this year had been flat at Fr1.277 million. Operating profits slid 35 per cent to Fr539 million. Remy maintained its dividend at 4.6 francs a share.

A continuing fall in cognac sales was offset by more gains in sales of other drinks. But Remy noted that first-quarter sales account for less than 20 per cent of annual sales because of the seasonal nature of the business.

Shares in Remy slipped by about 2.5 per cent on the Paris Bourse yesterday. The poor outlook for cognac sales also affected shares in LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, in which Guinness holds a 31 per cent stake. In London, Highland shares closed down 3p at 371p.

Bob Baty, right, managing director of South West Water, talks to protesters before the annual meeting yesterday. The £800,000 pay-off for Bill Fraser, his predecessor, was attacked by shareholders, but the company, which is facing bids from Severn Trent and Wessex Water, received some support for its efforts to remain independent

## Ex-BNB director to get £250,000

BY JON ASHWORTH

BNB Resources, the human resources company that owns Norman Broadbent International, the headhunter, has settled a potentially embarrassing legal dispute by paying £50,000 to a former director.

Andrew Goodman was suing BNB for £25 million, alleging unfair dismissal and breach of contract.

Mr Goodman was managing director of Goodman Graham, an information technology recruitment specialist bought by BNB last year.

He has agreed not to compete with Goodman Graham until May 1997 and not to work directly with Goodman Graham clients or employees

until May 2000. BNB had agreed to pay a maximum of £7 million over three years for Goodman Graham. The amount of deferred consideration has been reduced from £4 million to £1.5 million, leaving BNB with a total bill of £4.5 million.

David Norman, chairman of BNB Resources, said that the settlement was "fair and very satisfactory". He said revenues at Goodman Graham were expected to grow by more than 25 per cent in the half-year to June.

Mr Norman has been grappling with problems at Norman Broadbent, which has suffered a series of staff defections.

Mr Norman has been grappling with problems at Norman Broadbent, which has suffered a series of staff defections.

In comparing the results for the six months to 30 June 1996 with the previous results, it should be borne in mind that the major part of the Group's income normally occurs in the second half of the calendar year.

To facilitate the consolidation of the financial results of the company with those of its holding company it was necessary to change the company's accounting period from 31 December to 30 June in terms of Section 285(2)(a) of the Companies Act, 1973. The announcement accordingly covers the six months ended 30 June 1996.

The standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable from the share transfer office and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 17 August to 23 August 1996, inclusive.

By order of the Board:

per pro GOLD FIELDS

CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED

London Secretaries

S.J. Dunning

Secretary

### NEWBURY Building Society

#### Revised Interest Rates

The new rates of interest effective from 31 July 1996 on Newbury investment accounts are set out below.

#### Current Accounts

Gross Rate

1st July 1996

Treasure Plus

£1,000 - £9,999

£10,000 - £24,999

£25,000 - £49,999

£50,000 and OVER

Instant Premium

£500 - £4,999

£5,000 - £9,999

£10,000 - £24,999

£25,000 and OVER

Newbury Monthly Income

£2,500 - £9,999

£10,000 - £19,999

£20,000 and OVER

TESSA 93 & Follow-Up TESSA

Young Saver

£1 - £4,999

£5,000 - £9,999

£10,000 - £24,999

£25,000 and OVER

Paid up shares

Gross Rate

1st July 1996

Premium Shares

Castle Extra Interest

Tower Account

Tower Monthly Income

Cross Interest

TESSA 97

TESSA 98

Head Office

17 Bartholomew Street

Newbury RG14 5LY

Telephone: 01635 43876

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Newbury Monthly Income

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# Wall St losing run casts a shadow over London

SHARE prices and government bonds on the London stock market fought an impressive rear-guard action in the face of further losses overnight on Wall Street.

Even so, investors in London were in no hurry to open fresh positions as they waited for the latest economic numbers from the US on house sales, the consumer confidence index and employment figures. American GDP and payroll numbers are due out later in the week.

Nevertheless, the FT-SE 100 index managed to halve earlier losses to end the session 10.3 points down at 3,668.5. As one broker commented last night: "We've made it across the first hurdle, but there are others to overcome".

**National Westminster**  
Bank touched 638p before ending the session 1p lower at 616p as details of its share buy-back programme emerged. This coincided with half-year figures showing pre-tax profits up 23 per cent at £879 million against £673 million last time. The figure was struck before losses on the sale of its Bancorp subsidiary, totalling £690 million, and provisions of £205 million.

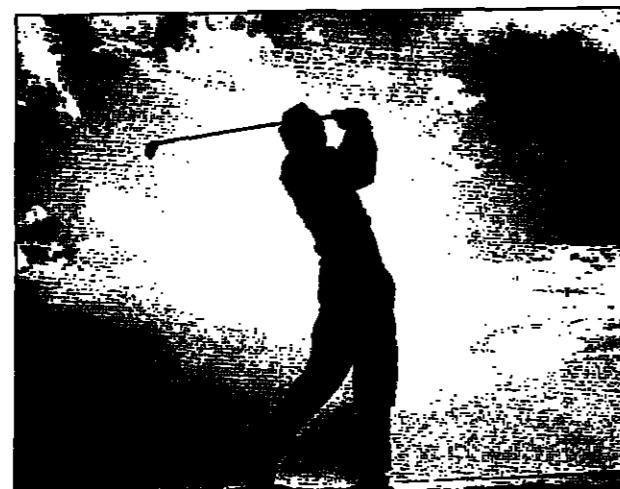
The one-off charges more than offset a profit of £224 million from the sale of its remaining holding in 3i, the venture capitalist.

NatWest has splashed out almost £450 million on buying back 72 million shares, or 4 per cent of the issued share capital. In a combined effort Cazenove and NatWest Securities, the brokers, paid 626p a share for the stock, helping to boost total market turnover to 673 million shares.

At the same time, NatWest hinted it was on the lookout for suitable acquisitions in life assurance. Allianz, the German insurer, is also said to be on the lookout for suitable acquisitions, but life assurance companies appeared undisturbed by the news, with Prudential rising 6p to 426p, Legal & General 2p to 704p, and Lloyds Abbey 3p to 550p.

Among the other banks, Barclays firmmed 6p to 810p and Abbey National 5p to 564p as money from the NatWest buy-back poured into the market.

Shares of Pelican, the Cafe Rouge and Dome restaurant chain, jumped 22p to 167.3p after the City learnt of Whitbread's £133 million agreed bid. The deal values



Clubhaus added 3p after its one-for-ten consolidation

Pelican at 170p a share. Whitbread finished 3p easier at 606p, with the Pelican acquisition expected to be earnings enhancing by next year. Tom Cobleigh, which was earlier tipped as a bid target for Whitbread, finished 12p cheaper at 210p.

Chirosience climbed 35p to 365p as talk of a bid from Glaxo Wellcome resurfaced.

NatWest Securities says all aboard for the bus operators. Focusing on rail privatisation will give them a new lease of life despite yesterday's referral of National Express's Midland Main Line deal to the MMC. Stagecoach, up 9p at 482p, FirstBus, steady at 144p, are buys.

The price showed signs of coming off the boil, at one stage, on reports of a denial from Glaxo before bouncing back with one buyer prepared to offer 372p for stock. Glaxo Wellcome, reporting later today, rose 10p to 899p.

Profit-taking left East Midlands Electricity 18p lower at 590p, but this has done nothing to dampen speculation about a bid from one of the

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THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Fry's Nomura's  
delight

**SIMON FRY** is the man to watch after mighty Robert Mapstone's resignation this week as co-head of equity trading at Nomura International. When Fry was taken on as head of asset trading in October 1994, all smiles and suntan from CS First Boston, two competitive types at Nomura made a bet on how long it would take the new boy to recoup the money that Nomura had splashed out acquiring him.

The most optimistic bet was three months and Fry did not disappoint. The lucky winner of the bet was whisked off to lunch, in a swanky restaurant, in a city of his choice. Meantime, Fry has been invited to share Mapstone's responsibilities with Nomura International president Takashi Tsutsui, and who knows what fortune holds for the man who backed him.

Going home

THE former Jamaican High Commission and the London building that once housed Crookshanks, one of the world's most famous gaming houses, between 1828 and 1840, is set to become a casino again. London Clubs has bought the imposing building in St James's Street to rehouse the casino it currently operates in the basement of the nearby Ritz Hotel. Discussions with the Ritz Hotel to extend the lease were in their final stages when the imposing building became available.



"With so many branch closures, it's difficult to find a bank open"

Testing time

**PAUL PINDAR**, managing director of Capita, announced some interesting results yesterday, aside from the outsourcing group's interim figures. Last month, a group of 30 analysts and institutional investors was marshalled to Coventry for the day. Their mission? To inspect the national call centre for running the new theory part of the driving test, for which Capita was awarded the contract by the Driving Standards Agency. The mob were shuffled into the examination room, and put under theory test conditions. While 90 per cent of the analysts passed the institutional investors lagged some way behind.

Just like that

**DEREK Wanless**, group chief executive at NatWest, was left off lightly yesterday after he turned up ten minutes late for a Radio 5 interview with Paul Charles of *The Financial World Tonight*. Charles was already furious with the bank — his NatWest Visa card had been stolen in a London restaurant 12 days before, and he had still not received a replacement card. Yesterday morning, Charles called up NatWest in a terrible rage, threatening to tell their boss of his dilemma. When Wanless eventually turned up at Broadcasting House ten minutes late, to be interviewed on the bank's interim results, he was waving in his hand a parking new Visa card for Charles.

MORAG PRESTON

# M&S enterprise aiming to make its marks in Germany

The UK retailer's  
Cologne opening  
is seen as a  
bold move, says  
Michael Kallenbach

**W**hen Marks & Spencer opens its doors to customers in Germany for the first time in October, it will not only have the unenviable task of breaking through German bureaucracy, but also the challenge of convincing the inflexible German palate that British food is quite tasty after all.

For years, Germans have been brought up with the idea that they should consume only German products. The idea that custard tarts, trifles and pork pies are just as tasty if not cheaper than say wurst and sauerkraut, will be among the company's first battles to overcome.

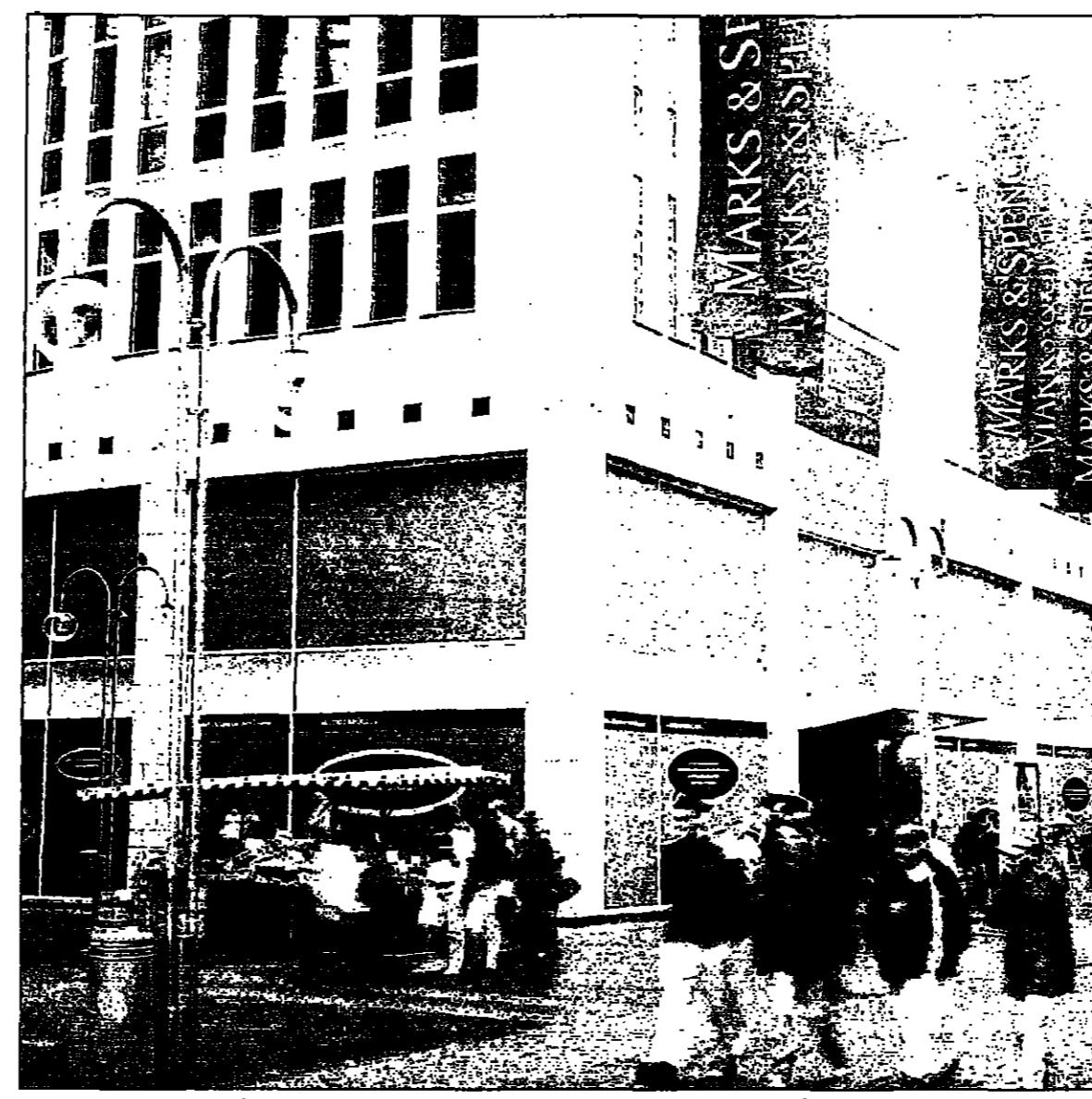
The German ethic, after all, is to buy Siemens rather than Panasonic; BMW rather than a Honda. For years, under the *Reinheitsgebot*, the brewing purity laws, Germans have been conditioned to believe their own beer is better than anything that foreigners can produce. But undeterred by mutterings, M&S is pouring thousands of marks into its new store in Cologne. Located in the Schildergasse, Cologne's Oxford Street, the company reacted quickly last year to a slump in the German property market to acquire the 4,700 sq metre premises over six floors.

Although this is not M&S's first venture in a German-speaking country — it has branches in Austria — it is seen, by analysts, as a bold, yet necessary, move. The company first looked at Germany in 1990 soon after the Berlin Wall was breached; but then, with the political uncertainty surrounding unification, property prices leapt out of all proportion and the company decided to bide its time, keeping its options open.

But now that it has a foothold there is talk that other stores will open elsewhere in Germany. Hamburg, the most English-speaking of German cities, is being looked at favourably, as is Berlin, the past and future capital of Germany, even though Galleries Lafayette, the French retailer, has already established itself in eastern Berlin.

Clive Nickolds, one of the M&S directors responsible for continental European operations, is the first to acknowledge that there is a great deal of intense German competition to face, and "we still have a lot to learn about trading here". But in spite of this, the company will, from the beginning at least, offer the exact range of goods available in UK stores, with the exception of bedding.

Marc Bauwens, project manager for the Germany launch, is the first to admit that in the past "the Germans always looked after themselves first", but now things are changing and he hopes M&S will make inroads into the clothing and footwear industry, a market currently worth £48 billion. "The Germans like to wear daring



Scouting success: the new M&S store will open in Cologne's version of Oxford Street early in October

colours and we will have to watch that area very closely," he says, "but fashion is becoming more universal, and we try to keep up with fashion colours. We do not protest to be trendsetters."

But it is in the foods department that Bauwens hopes the company will make the biggest impact on the German market. Explaining to a *hausfrau* what coronation chicken or even a Christmas pudding is may be a daunting task, but the company has done its research and believes customers are ready for new eating adventures.

"There are changes going on in German society and we will offer our full range of international foods", Bauwens explains. "While the German housewife is not exactly disappearing, our research shows us that half the households in Cologne are occupied by either one or two people, and that more women are going to work and doing less in the kitchen."

If M&S has done its homework properly, it could be tapping into a new take-home convenience market at pre-

cisely the right time. And it could well be that Germans are ready for it. Even though Germans traditionally eat their main meal a hot one, at lunchtime, it could be that they take readily to the M&S food range.

The company's slogan, "Quality, Value and Service", has not been translated for the German market, but a new one developed for a new market

— *Kein Kaufhaus, Weltanschauung* (not a department store, but a world philosophy). The thinking behind this is that M&S believes Germany does not necessarily need another department store, particularly since the Schildergasse is filled with them. "Our policy of coming over here,"

says Bauwens, "is different. We want to be ourselves."

The staff, most already on board, is being trained in the M&S philosophy. The 150 sales assistants will spend a week at the Baker Street headquarters between now and October to be immersed in company thinking —

polite service and offering the customer

a quality product. Above all, they will be told that smiling and being pleasant to customers is almost a British way of life, something the German service industry seems to have long forgotten.

Although the Germans are credited with having invented the expression "the customer is king", more often than not they treat customers with disdain. It is also rare to get German employees to wear uniforms and M&S will have to overcome this resistance.

When Richard Branson tried a similar scheme for the opening of his record store in Berlin several years ago, the staff refused to be told what to wear. On the management side, 15 German commercial and financial experts have already been selected, with the aim of keeping the team 60 per cent German and 40 per cent British.

The German venture could not come at a better time. After years of public debate, the German Government recently agreed to liberalise its outdated laws governing shop opening and closing times. From November, it will no longer be necessary to close at 6.30pm every weekday and at 2pm on Saturdays, except for the first Saturday of each month.

M&S waited for the right time to dip its toe into the market of 80 million customers. This could be it.

## Boss's attention to detail cuts costs

Jon Ashworth on  
the collected  
office missives of  
Alan Greenberg  
of Bear Stearns



Wanted: smart workers with a deep desire to become rich

velopes for internal mail were urged to lick a small portion at a time, ensuring repeated use. As Greenberg notes: "If one has a small tongue and good co-ordination, an envelope could be opened and resealed ten times."

The sarcasm undoubtedly masks some solid business sense. Greenberg's memos are filled with references to cutting costs, returning telephone calls, and keeping one's feet firmly on the ground. At one point, he proposes fitting radio collars to employees who refuse to leave contact numbers, adding: "The collars are bulky and not very attractive."

Last year was not a great one for Bear Stearns, which saw net income fall from \$387 million to \$241 million in the year to June 30, 1995, on

revenues of \$3.8 billion. Figures for the latest financial year, due this week, are expected to show a sharp improvement. Greenberg would probably blame the temporary reversal on MBA graduates, or, worse still, charists. He once noted that he had found a market technician who would literally work for peanuts.

He went on: "All we have to supply him with is paper and pencil, and Doodles. Danenberg will do his job. We will then distribute his graphs, which I promise you will be as good as any technical work done on Wall Street."

Doodles, he added, was a chimpanzee at the Central Park Zoo.

□ *Memos From The Chairman* (Workman, £10.99) will be published on September 18.

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## Bass creating a potent Czech brew of its own

Alasdair Murray on a successful foray into a fiercely protective beer market

**T**ucked away beneath Prague's television tower — a rocket-shaped absurdity bequeathed by the dying communist regime — is U Sadu, a gloomy, smoke-filled Czech pub frequented by locals from the fiercely working-class suburb of Zizkov.

Like many Prague pubs, U

Sadu — "The Orchard" — has undergone changes since the old regime collapsed in 1989. Smoke-stained walls have been touched up with brightly coloured paint, the games room boasts the latest fruit machines, while the basement has finally been opened up, ensuring that customers no longer have to fight for a seat.

But in the past six years

one thing has not changed — the price of beer. The pub did try recently to push through an increase equivalent to less than 1p and barely reflective of inflation since prices were liberalised, but its regulars refused to accept any rise in their precious beer.

The Czechs are the world's biggest beer drinkers, consuming 162 litres per person each year. The country also produces some of the best beer in the world — indeed

the Pilsner process, now

the mainstay of the world's brewing industry, was invented in the Czech town of Plzen. The Czechs are fiercely protective of their beer heritage and most foreign companies have struggled to find a niche in the Czech market.

But while most UK eyes

have been focused on the ambitions of Bass for Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing and leisure company has been quietly building up its position as the biggest foreign player in the Czech Republic.

Bass owns stakes in Prazske Pivovary, which produces Staropramen, and two other regional brewing companies, which it is merging into single company commanding a market share of about 15 per cent.

But on Monday Bass took a further step towards establishing itself as the most important company in the Czech market, buying 20 per cent of Pivovar Radegast. Radegast has emerged from

Most foreign  
companies have  
struggled to find  
a niche in the  
Czech market

to steal back sales by keeping prices low, preventing Bass and its main rivals from pushing through the price rises needed to make the industry truly profitable. Bass, meanwhile, has helped to put in place a £50 million investment programme to bring its Prague brewery up to date. The first stage includes new brewing equipment due to be completed by the end of this year. It has been designed to revert to the old brewing methods if necessary.

Bass's other ambition is to fulfil the export potential of the brands. In the communist era, only Budvar and Pilsner Urquell were exported and the country still exports only about 1.5 million hectolitres (32 million gallons) a year. Bass has been pushing Staropramen hard in the UK as a premium foreign lager. It has deduced that the long-term success of its Czech experiment depends on keeping the U Sadu regulars happy.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		Year ended 30 June 1996	Year ended 30 June 1995
Revenue		R'000	R'000
Income from investments	18 973	21 053	
Surplus on realisation of investments	6 531	6 075	
Interest received	270	691	
Sundry revenue	19	19	
	25 793	27 838	
Expenditure	4 630	4 389	
Administration	2 157	2 088	
Exploration	2 276	2 079	
Interest paid	197	222	
Profit before tax	21 163	23 449	
Tax			
Profit after tax	21 163	23 449	
Unappropriated profit, brought forward	68	99	
	21 231	23 548	
Less:			
Dividends declared	15 930	15 930	
Interim 17c (17c)	5 208	5 208	
Final 35c (35c)	10 722	10 722	
Transfer to reserves	5 270	7 530	
Unappropriated profit carried forward	31	68	
Earnings per share - cents	69	77	
Dividends per share - cents	52	52	
- times covered	1.3	1.5	

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET		Year ended 30 June 1996	Year ended 30 June 1995
Investments		R'000	R'000
Properties and ventures	167 729	166 609	
Net current liabilities	135	135	
	(2 972)	17 085	
Current assets	8 818	6 436	
Cash	5 036	872	
Other	3 782	5 564	
Less current liabilities	11 790	13 521	
	164 892	159 659	
Share capital	88 425	88 425	
Reserves	76 467	71 234	
	164 892	159 659	
Investments			
Listed - Market value	603 954	513 203	
- Excess over book value	437 501	347 872	
- Book value	166 453	165 332	
Unlisted - Book value	1 276	1 276	
Shares in issue unchanged at 30 June 201			
Net asset value per share - cents	2 066	1 745	



# Losses halved by the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Category	Price	Yield	%	PE
125	415	395	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	395	+	9	67 165
126	415	395		395	+	8	67 165
127	415	395		395	+	7	67 165
128	415	395		395	+	6	67 165
129	415	395		395	+	5	67 165
130	415	395		395	+	4	67 165
131	415	395		395	+	3	67 165
132	415	395		395	+	2	67 165
133	415	395		395	+	1	67 165
134	415	395		395	+	0	67 165
135	415	395		395	+	-1	67 165
136	415	395		395	+	-2	67 165
137	415	395		395	+	-3	67 165
138	415	395		395	+	-4	67 165
139	415	395		395	+	-5	67 165
140	415	395		395	+	-6	67 165
141	415	395		395	+	-7	67 165
142	415	395		395	+	-8	67 165
143	415	395		395	+	-9	67 165
144	415	395		395	+	-10	67 165
145	415	395		395	+	-11	67 165
146	415	395		395	+	-12	67 165
147	415	395		395	+	-13	67 165
148	415	395		395	+	-14	67 165
149	415	395		395	+	-15	67 165
150	415	395		395	+	-16	67 165
151	415	395		395	+	-17	67 165
152	415	395		395	+	-18	67 165
153	415	395		395	+	-19	67 165
154	415	395		395	+	-20	67 165
155	415	395		395	+	-21	67 165
156	415	395		395	+	-22	67 165
157	415	395		395	+	-23	67 165
158	415	395		395	+	-24	67 165
159	415	395		395	+	-25	67 165
160	415	395		395	+	-26	67 165
161	415	395		395	+	-27	67 165
162	415	395		395	+	-28	67 165
163	415	395		395	+	-29	67 165
164	415	395		395	+	-30	67 165
165	415	395		395	+	-31	67 165
166	415	395		395	+	-32	67 165
167	415	395		395	+	-33	67 165
168	415	395		395	+	-34	67 165
169	415	395		395	+	-35	67 165
170	415	395		395	+	-36	67 165
171	415	395		395	+	-37	67 165
172	415	395		395	+	-38	67 165
173	415	395		395	+	-39	67 165
174	415	395		395	+	-40	67 165
175	415	395		395	+	-41	67 165
176	415	395		395	+	-42	67 165
177	415	395		395	+	-43	67 165
178	415	395		395	+	-44	67 165
179	415	395		395	+	-45	67 165
180	415	395		395	+	-46	67 165
181	415	395		395	+	-47	67 165
182	415	395		395	+	-48	67 165
183	415	395		395	+	-49	67 165
184	415	395		395	+	-50	67 165
185	415	395		395	+	-51	67 165
186	415	395		395	+	-52	67 165
187	415	395		395	+	-53	67 165
188	415	395		395	+	-54	67 165
189	415	395		395	+	-55	67 165
190	415	395		395	+	-56	67 165
191	415	395		395	+	-57	67 165
192	415	395		395	+	-58	67 165
193	415	395		395	+	-59	67 165
194	415	395		395	+	-60	67 165
195	415	395		395	+	-61	67 165
196	415	395		395	+	-62	67 165
197	415	395		395	+	-63	67 165
198	415	395		395	+	-64	67 165
199	415	395		395	+	-65	67 165
200	415	395		395	+	-66	67 165
201	415	395		395	+	-67	67 165
202	415	395		395	+	-68	67 165
203	415	395		395	+	-69	67 165
204	415	395		395	+	-70	67 165
205	415	395		395	+	-71	67 165
206	415	395		395	+	-72	67 165
207	415	395		395	+	-73	67 165
208	415	395		395	+	-74	67 165
209	415	395		395	+	-75	67 165
210	415	395		395	+	-76	67 165
211	415	395		395	+	-77	67 165
212	415	395		395	+	-78	67 165
213	415	395		395	+	-79	67 165
214	415	395		395	+	-80	67 165
215	415	395		395	+	-81	67 165
216	415	395		395	+	-82	67 165
217	415	395		395	+	-83	67 165
218	415	395		395	+	-84	67 165
219	415	395		395	+	-85	67 165
220	415	395		395	+	-86	67 165
221	415	395		395	+	-87	67 165
222	415	395		395	+	-88	67 165
223	415	395		395	+	-89	67 165
224	415	395		395	+	-90	67 165
225	415	395		395	+	-91	67 165
226	415	395		395	+	-92	67 165
227	415	395		395	+	-93	67 165
228	415	395		395	+	-94	67 165
229	415	395		395	+	-95	67 165
230	415	395		395	+	-96	67 165
231	415	395		395	+	-97	67 165
232	415	395		395	+	-98	67 165
233	415	395		395	+	-99	67 165
234	415	395		395	+	-100	67 165
235	415	395		395	+	-101	67 165
236	415	395		395	+	-102	67 165
237	415	395		395	+	-103	67 165
238	415	395		395	+	-104	67 165
239	415	395		395	+	-105	67 165
240							



■ SNAPSHOT  
Day Three of our series on top tourist attractions braves the white-knuckle experience that is Chessington



■ VISUAL ART  
Glittering treasures the rest of the world ignored: the Khalili collection of Islamic art goes on show in London

## THE TIMES ARTS



### ■ PROM

At the Albert Hall, Trevor Pinnock struggles with the problem of 'period' music-making in large venues



■ TOMORROW  
A big screen debut for Roald Dahl's whimsical tale of hopes and dreams, *James and the Giant Peach*

SUMMER SNAPSHOT: Richard Morrison clings on for dear life at Chessington World of Adventures

# A mad social whirl in the park

**H**ere is a test of your capitalist instincts. You are a British investor and the year is 1979. Someone says to you: "I have this wonderful scheme for making money. We will build machines that scare the pants off the public. We will give them lurid, pseudo-mythic names evoking horrible deaths, like Jaws of Hell or Tomb of Torture. We will strap the punters in, so that they cannot change their minds and escape."

"We will hurl them round incessantly at terrifying speed until they go green at the gills. We will soak them to the skin with muddy water, and utterly humiliate them in front of hundreds of cackling strangers — and (this is the good bit) we will charge them handsomely for the experience. It can't fail to catch on. Now, will you put money into it?"

Be honest. You have just turned down the chance to play midwife to Britain's first theme parks, haven't you? Those same theme parks that have grown, in just 17 years, into a £130 million industry. The theme parks that are visited, so they claim, at least once a year by 22 per cent of all British adults and 36 per cent of children. Yes, you have made quite a miscalculation. With 11 million visitors a year to Thorpe Park, Alton Towers and their dozen competitors, and with each family paying around £60 for admission, you could have been on to a nice little earner.

Last weekend I revisited Chessington. When I last went



There are lawns and a zoo, then in the distance you hear the screams



New worlds to conquer: filling the thrills vacuum for Britain's post-fairground generation has meant monster profits for Chessington and its ilk

there it was known humbly as Chessington Zoo, and it had much to be humble about. Visitors would stare moodily at monkeys. Monkeys would stare moodily back — and that was about it.

But that was in the early 1960s, when I was wearing short grey flannels and clutching *Biggles* books by little paw. In 1987, Pearson plc — Chessington's owner — sensed which way the wind was blowing. By then Thorpe Park, Britain's first theme park had been open for eight years, and half a dozen more had followed. Disney World was clearly the inspiration, but the atmosphere was still very British: more Bank Holiday March than Fortnight in Florida.

Pearson formed the Tussauds Group (which now also owns Alton Towers and controls 40 per cent of the market), invested £18 million in Chessington, expanded it to include half a dozen different themed areas — you can walk from the Wild West world of "Calamity Canyon" to the Ancient Egyptian curses of "Forbidden Kingdom" in a few minutes — and renamed it Chessington World of Adventures. Among tourist attractions charging for admission, it is now the fourth most visited in Britain.

These, however, are mere carousels when compared to

the ghastly contraption that has made Chessington a by-word for wide-eyed terror in school playgrounds across southern England. *Revenge* (the apostrophe has no place in the modern theme park) has what they call in the trade a "three-way fear factor". This means that it twists its riders through 360 degrees in two different planes simultaneously, while squirting them with water. The sensation of being plunged upside-down from 60ft in the air into a rock-lined pit is much prized; the queues are long and impatient.

Not all at Chessington is white-knuckle stuff. A "Big City Circus", largely staffed by Hungarians with dazzling physiques, is as lively a show as anything currently travelling under a big top in Britain. "Toytown" offers gentle roundabouts for toddlers; I quite enjoyed those. But they

hold no "scream appeal" for the vital 10-15 age group.

Whether sane grown-ups come away thinking that all these cardboard "worlds" constitute the nadir of naïf or simply a good way of keeping children amused for several hours, depends largely on temperament. But don't underestimate the amount of psychology that goes into a theme park's construction.

**T**hey survive and prosper by appealing simultaneously to three different types of children — which they categorise as "daredevils", "anxious triers" and "clingers". What's more, the canny theme-park operators have also identified three different types of parents to whom they must also appeal. They are "child appreciators" who enjoy having fun with their children; "child dependents"

who "live vicariously" through their children; and "adult martyrs", the "reluctant parents who are essentially marking time waiting for their children to grow up".

A successful theme park must not only attract all these categories, but also detain them within the grounds for several hours. The longer a family stays inside a theme park ("dwell time"), the more burgers, drinks and souvenirs are purchased ("secondary spend"). That is where the big profits come.

Are theme parks a good thing? To some sophisticates they inhabit the same synthetic world as virtual-reality video games and pubs called The Flirkin and Groper. But they satisfy two apparently conflicting needs in modern urban life. Present-day children — whose lives are, by and large, more confined, sedentary and comfortable than ever before

— crave open-air thrills. But parents put safety first. The last thing they want is any sniff of the seediness traditionally associated with old-fashioned fairgrounds.

The theme park offers the illusion of danger, and it succeeds by playing on people's fears. But in reality it is controlled, clean, neat. While I was in Chessington I saw two boys attempt to stand up and wave while suspended 50ft in the air on the wildly swinging "Smugglers' Galleon". It was crass, unthinking and dangerous.

On the other hand, it was a typical teenage stunt. They were yanked off the machine, given a stiff lecture, and ejected from the premises. In the modern theme park you get your thrills strictly within the rules, or not at all.

Tomorrow: A Summer Snapshot of Westminster Abbey

### BBC PROM

## Periods of tedium

English Concert/  
Pinnock  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

THE problem of "period" music-making in large concert halls was highlighted in Tuesday's Prom by the English Concert and its choir under Trevor Pinnock. Even when an unauthentically large orchestra is assembled in the Albert Hall, gut strings and old-fashioned winds cannot "speak" with their characteristic directness, and the whole exercise loses some of its point.

The centrepiece was Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* (1796), one of the six last masses that represent the pinnacle of his achievement. But in this performance — with a choir of three dozen — the dark, foreboding fanfares and drum rolls in the *Agnus Dei* evoked little of the menace in the title. At least the performance boasted a solo quartet of fine young singers. The only extended solo is the *Gloria's* "Qui tollis", and Gerald Finley shaped the lines with Lied-like intensity, his baritone full of pleading emotion. John Mark Ainsley was refined in the small tenor part, and the women, Susan Gritton and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, were well matched.

There was some compensation for a routinely played programme of Haydn and Mozart in two infrequently heard works. Haydn's *The Storm* is a secular choral piece burdened with an aura of religious respectability, and hardly hints at the wild invention in *The Creation*. It is in one succinct movement, but this dreary performance highlighted its repetitiveness.

The concert had opened with a Mozart symphony never before played at the Proms: No 23 in D, K 181, an overture-like work in which the three short movements run into one. Pinnock, directing from a barely audible harpsichord, was fast and inflexible; the "spiritoso" of the *Allegro* was closer to "furioso". His reluctance to shape phrases did slightly less damage to Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony*, a work in which nothing can extinguish the blaze of genius. Still, there was a shortage of grandeur, rhetorical gesture and sometimes precision in what was in every way a lightweight performance.

JOHN ALLISON

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## Turkey with all the trimmings

Empire of the Sultans presents only a fraction of a collection, but it still impresses, says John Russell Taylor

**T**he Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art is one of the grandest and most extensive now in private hands — especially remarkable in that it has been almost entirely amassed in the past 20 years. The resplendent show, the opening attraction of the London University School of Oriental and African Studies' elegant new Brunel Gallery, concerns itself exclusively with the Ottoman elements in the collection, which constitute less than 5 per cent of the whole.

The works on show indicate an enterprising and idiosyncratic taste, and incidentally suggest how such a glittering collection could have been put together in such a comparatively short time. On the whole, experts in Ottoman art have tended to dismiss the 19th century as a period of decadence and corruption from the outside. It has apparently been impossible to appreciate the Topkapi Saray and at the same time enjoy the rococo trills of the Dolmabahce Palace for what they are.

But, in any case, by no means all 19th-century art in Turkey falls into this semi-kitsch category: much is made very consistently along traditional lines. Some of the imperial documents, for instance, might in style and quality of calligraphy date from two or three centuries earlier.

This is just one of the areas where the Khalili Collection has built up strength from buying things the rest of the world ignored. Unfortunately,

it has been necessary to reduce the size of the exhibition from its first showing in Geneva last year, and some of the most charming later pieces, such as the fiendishly elaborate paper-cuts, have got rather lost in the shuffle. Also, such larger pieces as the suits of intricately inlaid armour and most of the weapons have proved impossible to fit in.

In recompense, many real gems of significant art are here. The famously intimidating 15th-century iron and steel war mask, with beaten and engraved decoration, is fortunately of a manageable size. There are the most wonderful illuminated books and leather bindings, obsessively detailed in the decoration but at the same time witnessing to a stern sense of order beneath the superficial entanglement. Occasionally the interest of what we are seeing is of the kind which wonders at the dexterity of someone whose ambition would appear to be to inscribe the whole of the Koran on a single grain of rice.

But, on the whole, such flicking pursuits are not encouraged. Instead, we have the most splendid multicoloured Iznik pottery, and the most exquisite miniature vignettes of Ottoman life. There are rugs and hangings that would make any Western mouth water significantly, though Khalili himself holds a New York degree in computer sciences, he comes from several generations of Isfahan dealers in carpets and lacquerware.

At present the vast collection, of which this show represents merely the tip of the tip

of the iceberg, is stored in London. There has been much discussion recently as to where it will eventually be housed. Last year in Geneva there were rumours to the effect that the city had agreed to meet the collector's conditions and provide a complete, custom-built museum building for it, site as yet undecided. Now the issue seems to be a little less clear cut. Certainly hearing from Professor Michael Rogers, London-based honorary curator and author of the catalogue for this show, that the collection as a whole is "far more systematic and historical" in its putting-together than those of the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert, or that it includes more than 500 illuminated Korans, as against the

British Museum's 50, it is difficult not to fret a little at the prospect of its departure. But at least this show, highly enjoyable in itself, provides very palpable evidence of what we may be missing.

• *Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, 10 St. Giles, London WC1E 7HT* (0171 333 2399) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, until August 31



A page from the original *Siyâr-i Nâbi*, the Turkish version of the Life of Muhammad, left, and a poetical anthology in ohlong (sefine) format, both late 16th century.

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## THEATRE 1

Meet Paul Gregg, chairman of Apollo Leisure Group, and one of the most powerful men in British theatre



## THEATRE 2

The Oxford Stage Company's version of *Hamlet* is short on enlightenment and long on endurance



## CABARET

An exuberant Gerard Kenny proves that his appeal as a performer remains undiminished



## OFFER

Edinburgh nights: visit the world's biggest arts bash in August, courtesy of *The Times* Theatre Club

Andy Lavender on the Yorkshireman who has discovered that theatres are big business nationwide

# Where there's shows there's brass

**T**here is an argument that too many long-running musicals are clogging up London's West End theatres. Let us assume that you believe the opposite: there should in fact be more of them. They should be lavishly staged and housed in the grandest venues available. Moreover, they should also be seen in similar venues around the country. If this is your case, you will find a champion in Paul Gregg.

A Yorkshireman in his mid-fifties, Gregg is chairman of the Apollo Leisure Group, which makes him one of the most powerful behind-the-scenes figures in British theatre. He founded the company with his wife, Nitta, 19 years ago when they took over the lease of the New Theatre in Oxford. Since then Apollo has become the largest theatre operator in the country, employing more than 4,000 staff, owning 23 venues and running a number of others for various local authorities. Apollo's empire includes the Palace Theatre and the Opera House in Manchester, the Edinburgh Playhouse and the Bristol Hippodrome.

There's gold in them thar regions. By its opening night in Manchester, for instance, *Grease* had taken nearly £4 million in advance bookings. Gregg has accumulated a network of venues which he describes as "a sort of off-West End circuit that can take serious money at the box office".

He is also taking serious money at his caverns of popular culture in London. His company operates the Apollo Victoria, where *Starlight Express* has been running for nearly 13 years; the Dominion, where *Grease* has proved a surprise success; and the Hammersmith Apollo (formerly the Odeon), where *Riverdance* earns more than £500,000 a week. The Lyceum Theatre on the Strand, currently shrouded in builders' tarpaulins, is Gregg's latest acquisition and is due to reopen in November after standing derelict for eight years.

What is the secret of Apollo's continued ascent? "I'd say it is to do with being sentimental about the buildings, and maybe not the product," says Gregg. "The role we've created for ourselves is to provide the facilities and make theatregoing easier for people who want to see good shows — and try to make a profit out of it."

Should you think that this means dead-eyed entrepreneurs filling its provincial real estate with second-hand productions, Gregg insists that the touring shows can be more intoxicating than their West End incarnations. "Phantom of the Opera" cost £3.5 million to produce on the road," he says. "With that kind of investment, the show was of



Unrepentant populist Paul Gregg on site at the Lyceum. The theatre, costing £4.5 million to restore, is set to reopen with Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*

superb quality. It attracts people who may never have gone to the theatre before. I believe in developing an enormous theatre audience on the back of those kind of shows."

Apollo initially specialised in variety and light entertainment. Its current fondness for theatre spectacles indicates a shift in the industry. The variety circuit has shrunk while, with careful production planning, mega-musicals can now be cloned any number of times. Not everyone delights in the spread of such anodyne extravaganzas. Isn't Gregg ever tempted to offer the public what he feels they ought to want, rather than such carefully packaged fare?

"I can only give them what they want," he says immediately. "Otherwise I'm picking the tab up. Look. *Summer Holiday* [the musical adaptation of the film] is in Blackpool, it's great entertainment. It appeals to kids, grandmas and whoever Cliff Richard appeals to. *Riverdance* might not be art but it's bloody good entertainment. I'm not trying to run Chichester and produce drama there. I wouldn't know where to start, to be honest."

**G**regg knows where he is going, however. While four-fifths of Apollo's interests are theatrical, its portfolio includes restaurants, nightclubs and hotels, and the company is looking to double the number of cinema screens it owns within the next four years.

Meanwhile, Gregg can rub his hands in anticipation of a satisfying theatrical year ahead. *Starlight Express* is still going strong. The Walt Disney Corporation is bringing a production of *Beauty and the Beast* to the Dominion in 1997, while *Heathcliff*, Cliff Richard's musical version of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, will play a 20-week run at the Hammersmith Apollo. *Riverdance* will tour to Apollo's regional venues, as will productions of *Crazy for You*, *Les Misérables* and possibly *Cats*. Then there is the reopening of the Lyceum in London.

The last theatre performance at the Lyceum was given in 1939. It became a Mecca dance hall after the war, but fell into decline and

disrepair. Apollo Leisure acquired the lease in 1994 and has ploughed £4.5 million into the theatre's restoration — the fifth time in its history that it has been either rebuilt or renovated. The initial plan was to provide a temporary home for the denizens of the Royal Opera House during that venue's redevelopment. The accord fell through, making way for a new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Surely another Lloyd Webber offering — and a hoary one, at that — is hardly the most exciting choice, given that the Lyceum's boards have been trodden by the likes of Kean, Irving and Gielgud? "Everything that you do with Andrew Lloyd Webber is different and special,"

Gregg counters. "The right choice is the right commercial choice for the Lyceum and Apollo Leisure Group. It's also the right choice in attracting the biggest potential audience."

"We have reached the bottom line. You have to remember — and we're not ashamed of it — that we are a commercial entertainment company. We're not scared of that," Gregg says. "We've never stood up and said 'we're here for art'. We've proved, for example, that 3,500 people, for seven shows a week, want to see *Riverdance* at the Apollo Hammersmith. Good luck to them. They're having a great time and as far as I'm concerned, better than some of the presentations that are put into the West End that absolutely nobody wants to see."

## CABARET

## The songs in his art

Gerard Kenny  
Pizza on the Park

AFTER two weeks at Kettner's in Soho, the ebullient Gerard Kenny is now at this sister establishment, off Hyde Park Corner. Its crepuscular basement is dazzlingly illuminated by his exuberance and sheer joy in performing. And to judge by the opening night sell-out, his appeal as a cabaret performer is undiminished.

A songwriter whose satisfied clients include Barry Manilow, Shirley Bassey, Johnny Mathis and, er, Dennis Waterman (remember *I Could Be So Good For You?* It topped various charts and won an Ivor Novello award), Kenny has not troubled the chart compilers in some time. His style is old-fashioned, romantic, full-on sentimental. The opening song of his first set is *I Am the Singer*, an affirmation he reinforces through a dozen titles. They include *I Love a Piano* (he is inclined to give it a thorough workout to prove his ardour), *Fascinating Rhythm* and *I Got Rhythm* played as a medley, and a can-do anthem, which he hardly needs to admit is personal: *All For a Dream*.

Peasant (and crowd-pleasing) as these are, it is in other moods that he is most distinctive. A tender, witty collaboration with Ned Sherrin, *Not Funny*, is a miniature masterpiece, beautifully recorded by Marian Montgomery and deserving of wider exposure. Cy Coleman's *It Amazes Me* and *Why Did I Choose You?* are similarly touching and patently sincere. His near-death in a car accident eight months ago has brought new relevance to the sentiments of *The Best of Times* is *Now*, which is too often merely a party sing-along.

An interlude in which he was joined by Kevin Farrell, the talented pianist currently playing in another London restaurant, offered slapstick humour (fighting over the keyboard in *Tea for Two*) and a comic duet about the lot of lounge pianists everywhere.

His second performance each night is made up entirely of his own compositions, but it is at least as interesting to get, in the early show, a sidelight on a musician whose bright and breezy persona may sometimes obscure his real depth and worth.

TONY PATRICK

## Edinburgh calls

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## A teenage nuisance

### THEATRE

#### Hamlet Rose, Oxford

**W**hen the Playhouse reopens in September, with its seats new and its air at last conditioned, even productions as long as this (three and a half hours with two intervals) may flash by. In the meantime, the Oxford Stage Company has gone back to the space it occupied when John Retallack became artistic director in 1989, the Newman Rooms opposite Christ Church, renamed for the Elizabethan playhouse being excavated on London's Bankside at the time.

A broad curtained level overlooks a square acting area in the main body of the hall bordered by seats on three sides. In the front row the audience must take care not to stretch a stiff leg or else risk tripping an actor running past in search of a ghost, dead counsellor or obstreperous prince. On the left hangs a portrait of the dead king, stern, uniformed: on the right a besuited Claudius smiles down. And across the floor and along the steps of Matthew Wright's set the names of glorious Danish dead have been incised and gilded: Askel Garsler, Lars Dinesen, line after line of them, Erikssen, women's names too, Martine and Anna.

Possible explanations for this floated into my head during the evening. Inevitably, a war memorial was the first to come, but there is no obvious reason why the Danish court should be assembling on a cenotaph. Is it to provide a sense of history? Does it list the students in

keep one keen to see how this particular prince will fare.

He is good with the throwaway comedy, the "We could an if we would" jokes on the battlements, but, as his catalogue of crimes accumulates, this Hamlet is presented as a voracious nuisance. In some performances "crimes" is a word that can be avoided when adding up all the people Hamlet casually kills. Claudius, after all, only kills his brother and, unlike Hamlet, feels remorse. Pepperell's Hamlet has no heart, and this makes Shakespeare's writing, often clumsy in this play, seem unconsidered. Witness Horatio's double standards over the deaths of the luckless Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

The modern costumes also work against our tolerance of a troublesome prince, as does the Retallack/James idea of having one actor play Ghost and Claudius. Hamlet rails against the repellent man his mother has married: we see a perfectly dignified, silver-haired husband.

Performance and production do not grow; neither do they enlighten us with deepening understanding of the hero or the times he lives in, whatever these are meant to be. Colin George's Polonius and Gravedigger make a good pair, but Emma Cunniffe's Ophelia is dull. And another thing: if the duel is staged as some sort of medieval joust, it is perfectly natural for the poisoned cup to be set down on a table fatally near to Gertrude. In this production it has to be carried down the steps, over Clotilde Thorfinn and the rest of them, and put down by Gertrude's feet. She would have to be a paid-up member of Alcoholics Anonymous to resist it there.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Ian Pepperell: heartless

Hamlet's year expelled from Wittenberg? I have no answer.

Claudius and Old Hamlet are both played by William Russell, in excellent form both in the marital stalk and sombre mien he presents as the Ghost and as his smiling murderer. Young Hamlet mentions these smiles — what a man may do yet be a villain — and this co-production by Retallack and Karl James makes smiling the keynote of Claudius's early scenes. He arrives in applause, led by Sheila Allen's Gertrude, and smilingly greets the line of courtiers. He may talk in his clipped voice of the nation's woe, but his lips show an undeniably contended curve.

Throughout the scene where Claudius is being graciously welcomed, one figure stands unimpressed by the charm, possibly oblivious to it. In open black shirt and overcoat, frozen in pique, or even grief, Ian Pepperell's Hamlet looks as young and pensive as a frustrated teenager. When his uncle starts cooing him in praise, he makes no effort to disguise his contempt; but Pepperell's voice does not develop the necessary range of tone to

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CRICKET: SUSSEX'S NATWEST TROPHY CHALLENGE ENDS AT QUARTER-FINAL STAGE

## Jaunty Yorkshire settle an old score

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**HOVE** (Sussex won toss): **Yorkshire beat Sussex by five wickets**

ONE-DAY cricket was in the cradle when Yorkshire last visited Hove in this competition. Pinch-hitters and sliding stops were as unknown as helmets, perimeter advertising and designer sunglasses when 10,000 were shooed in to see Brian Close's side, the supreme team of the 1960s, beaten by 22 runs. Thirty-three years is a long time to wait for revenge but, for those who still remembered, it came in full measure yesterday.

Among those with clear recall of the events of 1963 is Geoffrey Boycott, then an awfully bespectacled 22. He was run out for 71 that day and apparently incurred the wrath of Close, a forerunner of the mutual antipathy that, judging by recent evidence in the

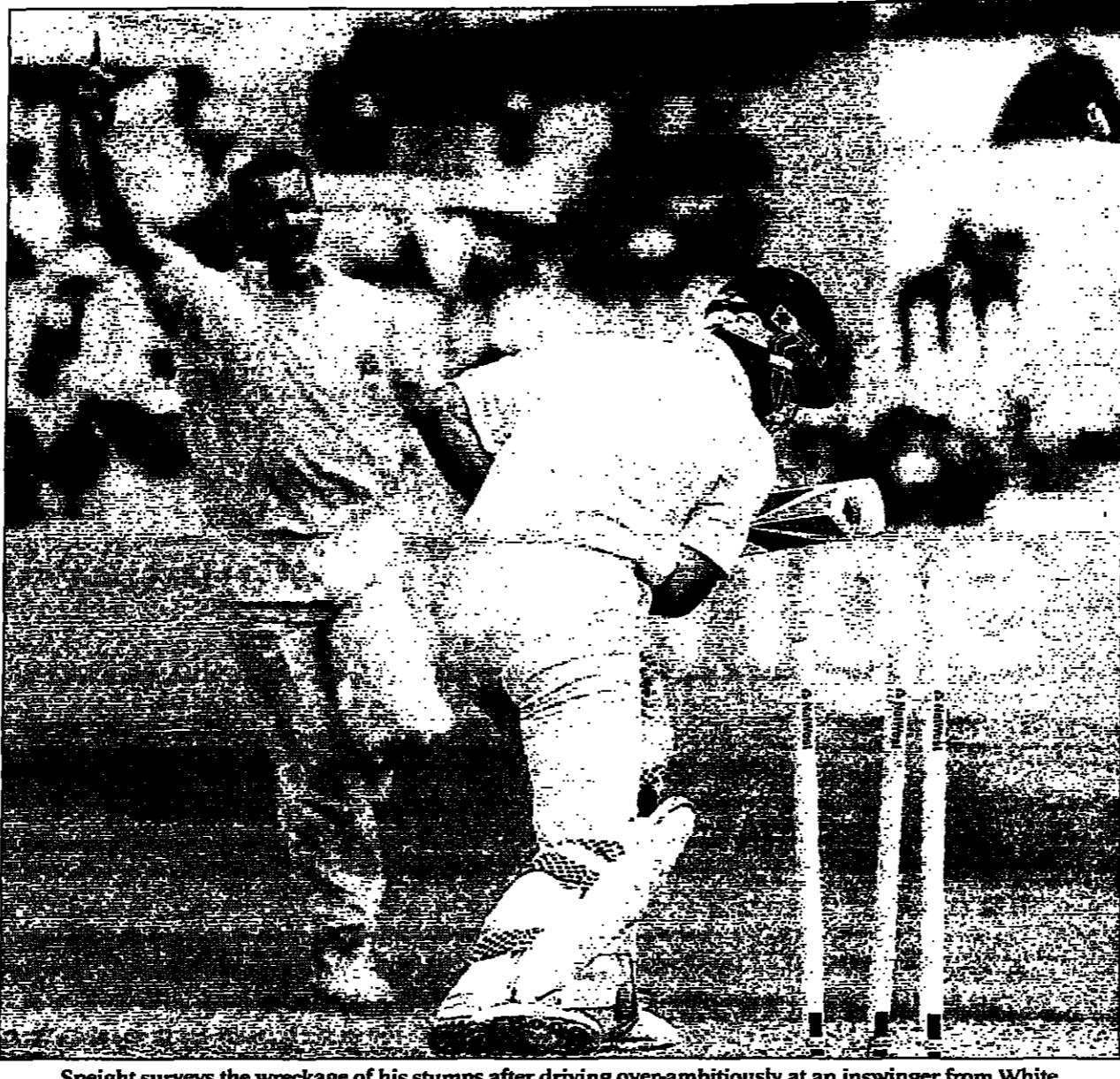
High Court, still applies. Boycott was here yesterday to commentate as the class of '63 took one more step out of the shadow of his own generation.

This is a confident, rounded side, aspiring to great deeds. Third in both the county championship and the Sunday League, Yorkshire are now one game away from only their third final in the premier one-day event. Back in 1963, when it was quaintly called "The Knockout Competition", Sussex went on to win it and those who saw the belated rematch will be inclined to believe that Yorkshire can do the same.

The modern Hove capacity of 5,000 was fully tested and many spectators were unable to find seats on a morning so hazy and amenable to swing that Alan Wells's decision to bat first was curious, given Sussex's bowling strength. It did not immediately backfire, for the intransigent Athey and Hall shared an opening stand of 85, but it occupied almost half the innings and the subsequent bating accurately imitated England's collapse at Lord's.

A target of 213 never seemed likely to extend Yorkshire and although they stumbled after tea, when Lewry and Salisbury bowled immaculately, they were home with 123 overs to spare. It is the first time they have reached the semi-finals of both the Benson and Hedges and NatWest competitions in the same season and, after the agonising way they lost the first of them to Lancashire off the last ball, they deserve a day in the sun.

Their success this summer is due in significant measure to being able to field a settled side. Gough and Silverwood have developed together as a new ball pair and they were an exacting proposition here. Athey, peering from behind his spectacles as Boycott himself once did, adopted an over-my-dead-body attitude to his native county and it was 18 overs before he struck his first boundary.



Speight surveys the wreckage of his stumps after driving over-ambitiously at an inswinger from White

The openers had begun to accelerate when they were divided as Hall missed a sweep against Stump, who has now added goatee beard to his fashion accessories. Speight, whose only half-century in 17 NatWest games was that memorable frolic in the 1993 final, was then bowled driving loosely at White and, crucially, Athey drove the same bowler to mid-on, where Gough took a one-handed

overhead catch. Sussex required substantial retrenchment after lunch but Gough made it impossible.

His eighth over contained the wickets of Greenfield and Wells, at which point he boasted figures of two for 17 and the strut of a man playing cricket that really demands an England recall. Oddly enough, if it is deemed that spin is dispensable at Headingley, it may come at

the expense of Salisbury, who was now promoted in the Sussex order only to fall immediately to Stump. Soon, Sussex were 139 for eight, five wickets having been blown away for nine runs in six overs. Drakes and Jarvis dragged the score to respectability with a ninth-wicket stand of 56 but Sussex were 50 runs short of par on this good pitch and even the early loss of Vaughan did not check Yorkshire's stride.

Moxon and Byas, driving attractively, added 99 in 20 overs before Salisbury gained deserved reward and the withdrawal of their second Yorkshire exile, Jarvis, with an ankle injury only accentuated Sussex's woes.

Victory was in sight when Yorkshire lost three wickets for 20, including Moxon for 21. Including Moxon for 21, but it was a delay rather than an alarm.

## SCOREBOARD

SUSSEX	
C W J Athey c Gough b White	54
J W Hall lbw b Stump	39
M P Speight c White	3
A P Wells c Gough	10
K Greenfield c Gough	10
P M Moxon run out	6
I D K Salisbury c Silverwood b Stump	1
D R Law b Hartley	0
V D Vaughan c Hartley	21
P W Jarvis not out	34
J D Lewry not out	3
Extras (lb 4, w 8, nb 6)	18
Total (9 wkt, 60 overs)	212
FALL OF WICKETS 1-85, 2-102, 3-111, 4-130, 5-131, 6-135, 7-138, 8-139, 9-195	
BOWLING Gough 12-2-34-2; Silverwood 12-1-42-0; Hartley 12-2-47-2; White 12-0-42-2; Stump 12-0-43-2.	

YORKSHIRE	
M D Mason c Lewry b Law	78
M D Drakes c Moxon b Drakes	52
D Byres c Drakes	27
M G Bevan run out	27
A McGrath c Salisbury b Drakes	5
C White not out	15
J R Athey not out	15
Extras (lb 4, w 5, nb 8)	17
Total (5 wkt, 47 overs)	215
T D Gough, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood and D Stump did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS 1-16, 2-115, 3-156, 4-170, 5-176	
BOWLING Lewry 12-0-42-1; Drakes 8-3-0-42-2; Jarvis 6-0-31-0; Law 8-1-50-0; Salisbury 12-1-33-1; Greenfield 1-0-7-0	
Man-of-the-match D Gough. Umpires J W Holder and A G T Whitehead.	

## Law enjoys seaside return

By SIMON WILDE

**SOUTHAMPTON** (Essex won toss): **Essex beat Hampshire by 100 runs**

STUART LAW'S young career has been too successful for him to know many bad ports of call but he has a special liking for the County Ground, Southampton.

He showed his affection for it again yesterday with a magnificent 107 from 81 balls — his fourth century in five innings there — that was the decisive factor in what became the simplest of passages for Essex into the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy. Law hit three sixes and nine fours, reaching his century in 77 balls. But for Law, though, and to a lesser extent Robert Rollins, with whom he shared a record sixth-wicket partnership in the competition, making 127 in 18 overs, it could have been a very different story.

He eventually perished in the late push for runs, as did Rollins, who scored 53 without hitting a boundary, but Essex reached a commanding total of 286 with ease.

It presented Hampshire with a target that they only briefly threatened to reach on a pitch providing gentle turn. They lost the early key wickets of Stephenson and Smith — who was perhaps unfortunate to be adjudged leg-before on the front foot — and Benjamin, after playing himself in sensitively, was unable to break free.

The pair came together three balls after lunch with Essex 127 for five and in serious trouble one more quick wicket and Hampshire would have been in the driving seat, but they were not permitted a sniff of such a wicket. The batting of Law, whose share of the stand was 79, was on a different plane from anything else on view.

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Essex ran into trouble

## Surrey see off Caddick

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

**THE OVAL** (Surrey won toss): **Surrey, with six wickets in hand, need 100 runs to beat Somerset**

WHEN Butcher and Adam Holloake accepted the offer of bad light shortly after 6pm last night, Surrey needed 100 runs exactly four over to reach the NatWest Trophy semi-finals and it will be a surprise if they fail to get them today. Somerset have had their moments, but they are defending a modest total and, of the last 25 overs, Caddick can bowl only two.

Caddick bowled splendidly yesterday, taking the wickets of Bicknell and Thorpe in his opening spell and, after switching to the Vauxhall end, getting Brown with his first ball. Trump has already completed his 12 overs, which leaves the supporting bowlers, Lee and Hayhurst, with the job of applying a mighty

squeeze. As Butcher is still there and there is some bat to come if necessary, Surrey ought not to be denied. Surrey's innings began disastrously. Darren Bicknell was leg-before to Caddick's second ball and, before the over was out, Stewart was thrown out from gully by Trump. Thorpe survived another confident shout by Caddick for leg-before and then edged a catch to Turner. At 34 for three they were in a pickle and it could easily have been worse. Brown had made only seven when he tried to flick Rose through mid-wicket, got a leading edge and watched Lathwell make 25 yards from mid-on, gain a good position beneath the ball and drop it.

In the absence of Lewis, whose thigh strain has yet to heal properly, Surrey included both Holloake brothers, and each held a couple of catches. Somerset's eighth wicket, that of Lewis, brought a fraternal double act when Ben simply strolled round at long-off and pouched the ball as though it was fielding practice. In its delightfully understated way this catch was a remarkable example of self-assurance.

At Nottinghamshire yesterday released three players and gave a warning that there would be more to leave at the end of the season. Bobby Chapman, Mark Broadhurst and Jonathan Willement have been allowed to leave as the county look to trim down the playing staff. Stuart Foster, the chairman of the cricket committee, said: "We're still overstaffed with 25 players."

## SCOREBOARD FROM SOUTHAMPTON

ESSEX	
G A Gooch c Law b James	20
D D J Robinson lbw b Udal	39
N F Williams not out	16
S G Law c and b Whistler	107
* P J Prichard c Ayres b Stephenson	15
R C Innes c Ayres b Stephenson	9
H P Grayson c Udal b Whistler	52
A P Grayson c Udal b Whistler	12
M C Ioffe run out	12
N F Williams not out	6
P M Such c Connor	0
Extras (lb 4, w 6, nb 8)	16
Total (59.2 overs)	286
FALL OF WICKETS 1-56, 2-72, 3-76, 4-113, 5-127, 6-254, 7-270, 8-279, 9-285	
BOWLING Connor 11-2-47-1; Milburn 10-58-0; Udal 12-0-38-1; James 10-0-38-1; Stephenson 7-0-49-2; Whistler 9-0-43-3	

HAMPSHIRE	
J P Stephenson c Law b Williams	15
D D Bowler c Thorpe b Williams	30
N F Williams c and b Grayson	7
S G Law c and b Whistler	107
* P J Prichard c Ayres b Stephenson	15
R C Innes c Ayres b Stephenson	9
H P Grayson c Udal b Whistler	52
A P Grayson c Udal b Whistler	12
M C Ioffe run out	12
N F Williams not out	6
P M Such c Connor	0
Extras (lb 4, w 6, nb 8)	16
Total (49.3 overs)	168
FALL OF WICKETS 1-21, 2-45, 3-93, 4-117, 5-123, 6-125, 7-127, 8-155, 9-160	
BOWLING Ioffe 10-0-45-1; Williams 8-0-37-1; Innes 11-1-46-1; Prichard 10-3-31-3; Grayson 12-1-38-2; Stephenson 7-0-49-2; Whistler 9-0-43-3	

## SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

SOMERSET	
M N Lathwell c Stewart b Benjamin	9
P D Bowler c Thorpe b Benjamin	52
S C Ecclestone c A J Holloake	1
R J Hardson b Julian	52
S Lee c A J Holloake b M P Bicknell	34
K A Parsons c B C Holloake b Julian	4
J M Tait c and b Julian	21
M A N Hayhurst c Stewart b Pearson	10
G D Rose c B C Holloake	4
A R Thorpe c and b Julian	3
G D Rose c and b Julian	3
Extras (lb 3, w 21, nb 21)	28
Total (49.1 overs)	228
FALL OF WICKETS 1-20, 2-117, 3-141, 4-156, 5-180, 6-181, 7-192, 8-208, 9-216	
BOWLING Caddick 10-2-24-3; Rose 8-1-32-0; Trump 12-2-38-0; Hayhurst 5-0-17-0; Lee 2-0-8-0; Umpires H D Bird and B Leadbetter	

## SURVEY

Surrey 11-1-146-1; Pearson 12-0-42-1

M A Butcher not out

TA J Stewart run out

G Thorpe c Turner b Caddick

D J Broadbent c Turner b Caddick

A J Holloake not out

Ecclestone (w 7, w 7)

Total (4 wkt, 35 overs)

126

D J Bicknell lbw b Caddick

M A Butcher not out

TA J Stewart run out

G Thorpe c Turner b Caddick

D J Broadbent c Turner b Caddick

A J Holloake not out

## OLYMPIC GAMES

# Magnificent men look up to Nemov the flying machine

THE wine was all gone, the glasses now held smaller and more potent things and talk turned to fantasy. The table buzzed with the fantasy life of people whose task it is to report fantasy and to do so on a daily basis here at the Games.

If you had the required gifts, which Olympic event would you choose to excel at? Around the table we went, one colleague citing the marathon and the crushing of pain, another, quirkily, the high jump and the conquest of gravity, a third the 1,500 metres and its revelation of character.

I opened my mouth, not a rare occurrence, to speak of the 100 metres and the Fastest Man in the World, but found myself heading in a direction my mind had not intended at all. Again, not a rare occurrence.

Men's gymnastics. I said. The greatest athletes of them all. My friend, Dr Craig Sharpe, professor of biomechanics, even has the figures to prove it. For strength, power, flexibility, aerobic and cardiovascular efficiency and all kinds of other things, these people are the most nearly perfect athletes in sporting creation.

And to be more particular, I continued, the high bar, the event in which a man takes on the power of flight and soars. Surely this is the ultimate revelation of strength, power and grace under pressure.



Atlanta sketch

And so I had to go to the final event of the sport they call, rather preciously, "artistic gymnastics", in which medals are awarded for performances on each individual bit of apparatus; and I concentrated my mind on the high bar. On the men who can fly.

This is the most spectacular event of the Games. The men "sort of turn themselves into a football rattle" as Carol Thatcher said vividly when she came to the Olympics in Seoul. The high points of each routine, literally, are the release-and-catches, when you let go of the bar and hover above the earth before gently seizing the bar once again. At its best, the timing is so perfect that the regrasping seems nothing more than the continuation of flight.

Enter Nemov. He outgunned his rivals with a move never before seen in competition: a *piked* Kovacs. The somersault above the bar was performed with straight legs, twice as difficult, twice as beautiful.

Sensation. The judges said he was not as good as Wecker. The way opened for Krasimir Dounov, of Bulgaria, whose fiery repertoire included six successive release-and-catch moves. Wonderful entirely, but the judges placed him below Wecker, giving him silver and awarding three bronzes for a third place shared by Nemov, Vitali Scherbo and Fan Bin.

But Nemov got my gold, for flight, his piked Kovacs and a return to the bar that was soft as a butterfly's kiss. Rather a passionate butterfly.

The supreme release-and-catch move is the Kovacs, when you perform a flying somersault then stretch out a nonchalant hand or two to grasp the bar again if it happens to be passing. It is a poor person whose heart does not soar with the gymnasts at these moments.

Yes, my colleagues said, it's all very well but it's an imperfect sport, isn't it, as the judged sports must be, which makes it an unsatisfactory business. How can they separate one near-perfect athlete from another and by one hundredth of a mark?

It is a charge to which gymnasts must plead no contest, but that does not diminish the athletes. Nor does it stop Alexei Nemov, member of the victorious Russia team, winner of the individual gold for the vault; silver in the all-around competition and bronze on pommel and floor, from being one of the supreme athletes of these Games.

And so, at last, to the shoot-out on the high bar. The marginal favourite was a Spaniard, wonderfully named Jesus Carballo, world champion and famous for his "inverted" moves, impossible swings performed with shoulders more or less inside out. Alas, he fell, leaving the German, Andreas Wecker, in control after a strong, accurate performance.

Enter Nemov. He outgunned his rivals with a move never before seen in competition: a *piked* Kovacs. The somersault above the bar was performed with straight legs, twice as difficult, twice as beautiful.

Ainslie has got to be careful, though. If the Brazilian double world champion manages to sail him down to below sixteenth place, then Ainslie will surrender the silver medal position to the third-placed Peer-Moberg of Norway.

Another possible scenario is if Ainslie wins and Scheidt comes third. Then the pair will end up with exactly the same score on points, but Ainslie will win overall by virtue of having three second places to the Brazilian's two. They will both have accumulated three firsts. It is that close.

Undoubtedly, it is the most important race of Ainslie's young life and even a silver medal will be an incredible achievement for a teenager who, early last year, was still planning to make his Olympic Games debut at Sydney in 2000.

In the past 12 months, his improvement has been dramatic and consistent and, although he is certainly still a long way from reaching his full potential, he is already talked about in the Royal Yachting Association as the "sailor of his generation" and someone with a natural gift to make a boat go fast on a par with Lawrie Smith. This could be the first of many Olympic campaigns for him.

His battle with Scheidt has been a feature of the Olympic regatta. The two yachtsmen are very similar. Like Ainslie, the Brazilian is a quiet, unassuming individual and a good sport who is dedicated to his sailing. Like Ainslie, he showed natural flair at a young age, capturing the

world youth championship in the class at the age of 18, as Ainslie did after him. Now 24 and a student from Rio de Janeiro, he has gone on to win two back-to-back world titles, beating Ainslie into third place when he retained his title earlier this year in South Africa.

The Brazilian's strengths are a lot to do with the extra experience five years more time on the water has given him. He has the confidence of his two world championship victories and the knowledge that he can produce the goods when the pressure is on. Scheidt is also particularly fast in heavy conditions, where his extra weight helps him.

Nevertheless, Ainslie can and has beaten him. Scheidt likes to win from the start, but Ainslie is so quick downwind that the Brazilian will not be able to relax, even if he is well ahead up the first beat. Scheidt is not happy sailing in a pack of boats and likes space around him. Ainslie is a more aggressive character on the water and at his best in tight corners.

Mark Littlejohn, who was third behind him in last year's Olympic trials, believes Ainslie can win today, so long as he attacks from the start. "My advice to Ben would be to attack Scheidt to get him on the defensive. Ben is a fast starter and usually comes off the line quickly, but he must make sure the boat to windward is Scheidt," he said.

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Ainslie's senior, also knows to his cost that the teenager is still dangerous when behind late in a race. "If I was ever ahead, he would always go into a quicker gear. His intense concentration is greater than anyone I have ever seen. He is incredibly tough, a born winner," he said.

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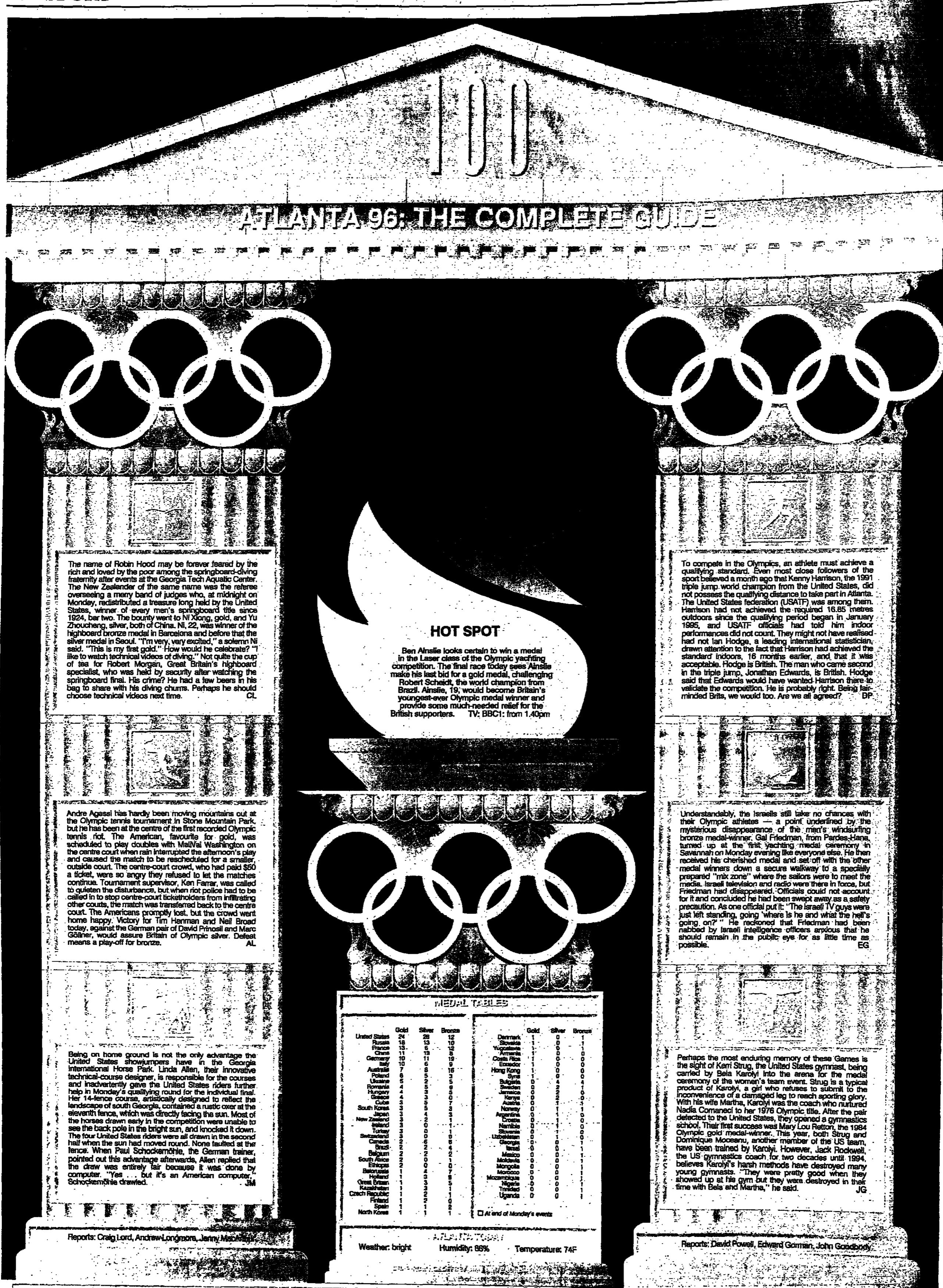
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## **TODAY AT THE GAMES**

All times BST

**ARCHERY:** Men's first round (14.00) and final (19.00).  
**ATHLETICS:** Men: Decathlon - 100m - 11.00m

**ATHLETICS:** Men: Decathlon, 100m (14.00); pole vault, qualifying (14.30); decathlon, long jump (15.05); 200m, first round (15.45); decathlon, shot (16.15); decathlon, high jump (1.80m).

ion, shot (16.45); decathlon, high jump (22.35); 200m, second round (23.15); 400m hurdles, semi-finals (00.15); discus, final (00.30); 3,000m steeplechase, semi-finals (01.00); 800m, final (01.50); decathlon, 400m (02.25); 5,000m, heats (02.55). Women: 1,500m, heats (15.00); 200m, first round (17.00); shot, qualifying (22.15); 100m

hurdles, semi-finals (22.45); triple jump, final (23.35); 200m, second round (23.45); 400m hurdles, final (00.40); 100m hurdles, final (02.10).

**BADMINTON:** Men's and women's doubles, finals (14.00); men's and women's singles, bronze medal matches (00.00); mixed doubles, bronze medal match (00.00).

**BASKETBALL: Women: Quarter-finals (20.00, 22.00, 01.00 and 03.00).**

**BOXING:** Quarter-finals: Flyweight, feather-weight; light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (18.30 and 01.00).  
**CANOEING:** First round and repechages: Men's K1 (14.00 and 19.30); men's C1 (14.50

and 20.00); women's K1 (15.20 and 20.20); men's K2 (15.50 and 20.40); men's C2 (16.30 and 21.10); women's K2 (17.00 and 20.00).

**CYCLING:** Road: Men's road race (13:30).  
**DIVING:** Women's springboard semi-finals

DIVING: Women's springboard, semi-finals (16.30) and final (03.00).  
EQUESTRIANISM: Individual dressage (13.30 and 20.00).

**FOOTBALL:** Men's semi-finals (01.00).  
**HANDBALL:** Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Russia v Switzerland (17.00); Croatia v Sweden (19.30); Kuwait v United States (02.00). Pool B: Egypt v Spain (15.00); France v Germany (21.30); Algeria v Brazil (00.00).

**HOCKEY: Men: Classification matches (13.30 and 16.00) and semi-finals (22.30 and 01.00).**

TABLE TENNIS: Women's singles, bronze medal, match and final (20.30); men's singles, semi-finals (10.00).

**TENNIS:** Women's singles, semi-finals (16.00); men's doubles, semi-finals (18.00); women's doubles, semi-finals (20.00).

**VOLLEYBALL:** Women: Classification matches (13.00); men's quarter-finals (18.30 and 00.30).  
**WRESTLING:** Freestyle: Under 48kg, under 77kg, under 68kg, under 82kg and under 100kg, classification matches (14.30) and finals (20.30).  
**TAekWONDO:** Women's Europe, final race; Laser, final race; Soaring, match races (all 18.00).

## WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

## ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05-  
12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1-  
5.35pm Olympic Grandstand

5:35pm Olympic Grandstand.  
8:30pm Essential Olympics. 10:25pm  
4:25pm Olympic Grandstand.

## •200m Olympic Grandstand Bac2

5.35-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand

10.30pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.30am Olympic Grandstand.

Eurosport

# OLYMPIC GAMES: GOLD IN LONG JUMP COMPLETES RECORD TALLY AS RIVAL FALLS IN PIT OF DESPAIR

## Timeless Lewis takes giant leap to greatness

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE sands of time were kind to Carl Lewis. They did not run out before he could complete the story of an Olympic legend. The sand he took away with him, in a polythene bag from the pit of the Centennial Stadium here, was his personal souvenir of the Monday night that, at 35, he won a fourth consecutive long jump gold medal.

He joined Al Oerter, discus champion from 1956 to 1972, as co-holder of a record four victories in the same event. He joined Paavo Nurmi (athletics), Larisa Latynina (gymnastics) and Mark Spitz (swimming) on the list of those who have won a record nine Olympic gold medals. He might have been looking at an outright record tenth gold in the sprint relay on Saturday but the United States have not selected him.

Roger Black said that not choosing Michael Johnson for the 4x400 metres in the 1991 world championships was

"the biggest mistake that the American selectors have ever made", but they have just surpassed it. Who in the world would not have wanted to see Lewis storming to victory, as he surely would have, on the last leg of the relay? One last run to send emotions as high as a last round from Ali or a valedictory set from Navratilova.

Lewis, in a press conference performance as smooth as his sprinting, said he did not want to "whine and bicker because I do not want to spoil the moment". But it had to be said. It had to be said that he wanted, desperately, to run in the relay.

"The coaches decided on putting together a team they wanted to run and that is their decision, but I wish it was my decision because I would be there," the winner of five sprint golds said. "I would love to run in front of this great crowd. I have had every experience. The only experi-

ence left is to be the all-time gold medal-winner and it is a shame it is not up to me."

At no stage this season had Lewis looked the likely winner, not until he produced his victorious third-round jump of 8.50 metres. The path that had led him that moment had been scarred with potholes.

Having failed to qualify for the US team for the 100 and 200 metres at the trials, Lewis was perilously close to elimination from the long jump, too.

He squeezed into the team, taking the third and last place, by three centimetres.

Again he was facing elimination when, in the qualifying round on Sunday, he was in fifteenth place with one chance to come. The pressure on, he jumped into first place. No wonder he said, as he walked into a packed press conference having won the final: "I want to know how you all got into the long jump but the way they cheered after the 200." Lewis said.

Fifteen minutes later Oerter

got into his dream. In a touching moment, no less for it being stage-managed, Oerter appeared on the platform. After the two had embraced, Oerter stole the show for a moment. "Carl is making it too difficult," Oerter said. "This means I have to come back in the year 2000. I am 64 years old."

Then Lewis continued with a summary of his work ethic: "I think I have given a professional perspective," he said. "You have to present yourself well, you have to look good, you have to speak well."

At his first Olympics, in Los Angeles in 1984, Lewis was jeered when he passed on his last jump. He did not take it here, either. He said he forgot in all the commotion of his victory having been sealed.

"What I remember about '84 is not the way people booted after the long jump but the way they cheered after the 200," Lewis said.

"I want to know how you all got into the long jump but the way they cheered after the 200." Lewis said.

That is 12 years ago, about 16 hairstyles ago, no grey hairs ago, 15th ago, miles and miles of training ago and thousands and thousands of screams from coach Tom Tellez ago. I have never felt the public has been bad with me. I am honoured to have been able to touch people's lives."

The contrast between Lewis's joy and the sadness on the sand-speckled face of Mike Powell, his long-time adversary in the long jump, as he was helped from the pit after aggravating a groin injury enriched the drama of the night.

"You want those Olympic experiences to last forever," Lewis said. "But I wanted that competition to end after the third round."

"When I wake up tomorrow I want to look at my clock and make sure it is the next day and that I did not wake up just this morning." He can put nine gold medals and a bag of sand by his bed as his alarm call to reality.



Powell lies in agony in the sand after injury brought his challenge to an end



Lewis takes off on the way to a fourth consecutive gold medal in the long jump

## Double doubt for Gebrselassie

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE list of athletes who have won the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at the same Olympics, reads like a trumpet call of the Games: Haile Gebrselassie, Kolehmainen, Emil Zatopek, Vladimir Kuts, Lasse Viren and Miruts Yifter.

The burden of emulating them may prove too much for Haile Gebrselassie, who took the gold medal in the 10,000 metres here yesterday and is hoping to complete the double on Saturday.

However, the Ethiopian badly damaged his feet in his epic 10,000-metre race with Paul Tergat, the Kenyan silver medal-winner. He was hobbling as he left the podium, but does not want to let down his supporters by pulling out of the 5,000-metre heats that begin today. He said: "They know I came for both events so I must run."

He criticised the track surface, saying: "It is impossible

to do 25 laps on this track. I don't know how they made this track. I cannot walk any more. When I finished my feet were hurting really badly."

The hard surface may have helped sprinters, but it seems to affect the legs of the long-distance runners.

The double world champion and record holder was severely tested by the Kenyans throughout an absorbing race. Paul Koech did much of the early work as the Africans dominated the event, just as they did at the world championships in Gothenburg last year when they filled the first six places. In this 10,000 metres, the top eight runners to finish were Kenyans.

There is deep resolve in Gebrselassie. Ever since 1980 when he defied his father by listening on his family radio to Yifter, his fellow countryman, complete the Olympic long-distance running double in Moscow, he has focused his

ambition on a title at these Games.

Gebrselassie is a man of the people in Ethiopia, declining to use the two Mercedes cars he won for his two victories at the world championships. They remain in a garage. He said: "I want to be like my people and if any people are poor you must live like them or they will turn against you."



Gebrselassie hurt

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Gebrselassie is a man of the people in Ethiopia, declining to use the two Mercedes cars he won

## OLYMPIC GAMES

# Hat-trick by Sixsmith secures tilt at bronze

Great Britain ..... 5  
Argentina ..... 0

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain played themselves into medal contention in the women's Olympic hockey tournament here yesterday with a devastating victory over Argentina in the round-robin series.

Jane Sixsmith scored three goals and Mandy Nicholls two, but the figures say nothing of the havoc caused in Argentina's defence by these two players. Nicholls in particular.

A total of eight points from seven matches assured the British team of a place among the top four and they will play off for the bronze medal tomorrow.

Speed, skill and control were the main features of a match dominated by Britain because of their ability to communicate as a team. Argentina relied mainly on individual expertise, a tactic which paid no dividends.

Argentina launched the first attack, without effect, before Britain took matters in hand. Anne Bennett raced into open space on the right of the field and delivered the ball inside the circle to Nicholls, who swept it home for the first goal in the eighth minute.

Five minutes later, a short corner to Britain led to their second goal. Argentina broke the line, but play continued and, after Jill Atkins' shot had been saved, Sixsmith, who had actually made the push out from the line, nipped in to score.

A few attacks led by Vanina Oneto, the Argentine centre forward, were repelled before Britain forced four more short corners in the first half. In this sequence, a shot by Atkins was deflected by the goalkeeper, who saved successive shots from Tina Cullen and Sixsmith, almost on half-time.

Three minutes into the second half, Gabriela Sanchez, the Argentine centre half, had a chance to reduce the lead. She was checked by Hilary Rose, who fell awkwardly after saving and left the field, to be replaced in goal by Joanne Thompson. Sue Slocombe, the Great Britain coach, said that Rose had suffered a bruised rib, but that it was too early to say whether she would be fit to play in the next match.



DAVID MILLER

## on a noble effort

THERE were three noble Olympians out there on the track on Monday, on what was an exceptional night at the athletics stadium: Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson... and Roger Black. If Olympic spirit still means anything, it is no chauvinistic impulse to place Black alongside two outstanding gold medal-winners, one of them a legend.

If a distinction can be made between glory and honour, then Lewis's fourth Olympic long jump victory and Johnson's predictably triumphant 400 metres, together with Hai-Gebrselassie and Svetlana Masterkova, took the glory, but to Black went the honour. If one wished to tell one's grandchild a morality tale, it would be that of Black's silver medal.

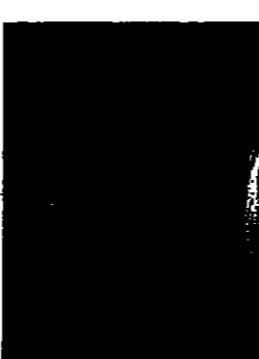
At 30, Black has been around for almost as long as Lewis. He has ten gold medals from significant championships — four individual and six relay — but nothing previously from an Olympics.

His succession of injury traumas reads like a medical reference book: foot injuries which kept him out of the 1987 world championships, after winning the European title in 1986, and the Seoul Olympics; an ankle operation in 1989 before retaining his European title the next year; a hip operation in 1992 for an imbalance, following the semi-final elimination in Barcelona; a virus infection the next year prior to a European silver in 1994; a cartilage operation last year, having finished seventh at the world championships in Gothenburg.

If Lewis's nine Olympic gold medals are the stuff of dreams, so, too, is Black's silver won on Monday. For the 24 hours after he had crossed the line ahead of Davis Kamoga, of Uganda, in third place, Black did not stop smiling. Probably not even when asleep.

"A silver behind Johnson," he said, repeatedly, "is like a gold ahead of anyone else. I ran, for me, the perfect race. My goal was to walk away happy. A silver medal was beyond expectation."

He regards Johnson as insuperable — unbeaten over 400 metres since 1989, of whom his close rival, Derek Mills, of the United States, had said: "I try to remember he's just a man." Johnson, however, also has his traumas, but they lie in his



DAVID MILLER

## on a noble effort

head. Brought up by a father who was a perfectionist, Johnson now aims for perfection — to be the first to achieve the 400 and 200 metres double at the Olympics, something which he achieved in last year's world championships. Yet, a few weeks ago, Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia, ended his unbeaten 200 sequence, never mind Johnson's world record of 19.66 in the US trials.

The search for perfection additionally means that Johnson is tormented by the image of Lewis as Superman, an image for which he yearns. In Barcelona, an upset stomach cost Johnson a place in the 200 metres final. Lewis, a shade dismissively, has said that Johnson is uncharismatic. They did not celebrate together in the arena on Tuesday night, though their victories were almost simultaneous: Lewis's, presumably, his last. Johnson's his first. They are not friends.



Black relishes his moment on the Olympic medals' podium on Monday night

Black had arrived at the final in ideal shape, both mentally and physically. Twice this season he had improved the United Kingdom record, the second time to 44.37sec. In the heat and semi-final, he had moved, for a runner with a renowned heavy stride, with fluidity. He looked good.

"The secret is to enjoy the process," Black admitted. "I go to the line [nowadays] not nervous. It takes you time to learn that. Some need aggression — I need to be at peace with myself."

After the final, with a time of 44.41 to Johnson's 43.49, Black reflected on all the pain that had preceded his finest race. "To be standing on Johnson's left on the podium was amazing," he said. "I'm ecstatic. The achievement for me is as great as the gold for him. I have what I set out to do."

"I ran an experienced race. I had needed to think about

what I wanted. If I'd gone with him, I would not have got the silver at 400. I was strong coming home. That was the difference from the last ten years."

Black was aided by the injury of Harry "Butch" Reynolds in the semi-final, but he had still to beat Alvin Harrison, ranked third this year. In the event, Harrison, in fourth place, was only just able to fend off a powerful finish by Iwan Thomas, of Great Britain. Another fine run. Reynolds's injury could strengthen Britain's prospects in the relay.

For Johnson, the title made amends, he said, for the disappointment in Barcelona. At 28, he knew it might be his only chance in the Olympics at 400 metres. He acknowledges that his start out of the blocks — poor on Monday — against Fredericks in the 200 metres could be critical. His coach, he said, would be working on it. Johnson may not have Lewis's aura, but the way it has been for Lewis for 12 years, Johnson is everyone's target.

## Industry cashes in on perfect stage

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE

THE power of the manufacturing dollar brought the mountain bikers to the woods of Conyers yesterday, a delightful weekend pastime transformed into an Olympic sport by jazzy lycra and the need to sell more bikes.

Go into any bicycle shop in the land and you will see row upon row of nobly-tired, multi-gear mountain bikes. The industry is worth £150 million in the United Kingdom, three times that in the United States. Two years ago, 108 million mountain bikes were produced in the world. A racing bike? What's that? The "Dream Team" sells basketball to the world, the mountain bikers peddle bikes.

The public and press tend to think it's big kids riding BMX bikes, Caroline Alexander, Great Britain's European women's champion, said, "but mountain biking is actually one of the roughest sports in the Olympics. Only cross-country skiing and marathon running can compare with it."

Neither of those two are exactly spectator sports nor, for all the enthusiasm of the 30,000 crowd braving the black racer snakes to link the route of the Georgia International Horse Park, is cross-country mountain biking. The downhill version would make a better spectacle, but would be unrecognisable for the armchair viewer with money in his pocket.

The bikes are the stars here, not the riders. State-of-the-art machines built of titanium and aluminium, with 24 gears, weighing a mere 22lb and worth £5,000. The riders themselves, many refugees from the old BMX tours in the United States or unglamorous cyclo-cross in Europe, are still bewildered by the sudden rise to Olympic fame.

Ten years ago, at the age of 25, David "Tinker" Juarez was a washed-up racer on the fast-declining BMX circuit, contemplating a return to the construction site and obscurity. Now the drenched Californian of Mexican descent has a five-bedroom house in Downey, the affluent neighbourhood where his mother, Rose, used to work as a cleaner to finance his obsession with bikes. His nickname is a reference to his passion for mechanics rather than a comment on his background or lifestyle, but the boom in mountain biking has brought wealth beyond his dreams.

"I've come to the right sport at the right time," Alexander said. "It's a young sport." From pottering about on a bicycle in a kibbutz to the Olympics in six years is one of the faster career progressions.

Juarez set off on the 30-mile course with the hopes of the American manufacturers on his broad shoulders, but in an event designed to bring the home country another victory, he felt every one of his 35 years, finishing a dispirited 17 minutes behind the gold medal-winner, Bart Jan Brenjens, a market gardener from Holland. The British duo of David Baker and Gary Foord were far from disgraced in the 90F heat, Foord finishing twelfth and Baker fifteenth. To the chagrin of the Americans, the first Olympic men's race only confirmed the dominance of the Europeans.

While sports like triathlon have been knocking on Olympic doors for years, mountain biking has taken just 13 years to progress from an organised sport to the posse's place on the Olympic calendar. So strong was the push for its inclusion that mountain biking bypassed the usual procedure, becoming a full sport without being a demonstra-

tion event, at the expense of the 100 kilometres team time-trial.

The men's event lasted more than two hours, the racing about as long as it took Luce Bramati, of Italy, and Brenjens to open up a commanding lead. Once the Italian had wilted in the heat, the Dutchman rode away to win by a comfortable 2min 35sec from Thomas Frischknecht, of Switzerland.

They should bring back the team time-trial for Sydney in four years' time and leave the mountain biking to the Sunday afternoon amateurs.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

### GRIM'S DYKE

(a) Or Grahame's, Graham's or Grime's Dyke. A popular name for the Firth of Clyde. A narrow neck of land between the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Firth of Clyde. Grime is an old name for the Devil. Walter Scott in his Tales of a Grandfather (chapter 1) says that when the Pick and Sticks attacked, after the Romans left, Grahame was

(b) A first-rate actor. Eponym from Quintus Roscius (d. c. 62BC), the Roman actor unrivalled for his grace of action, melody of voice, conception of character and delivery. Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part III, V, 1: "What seem of death has Roscius now to act?"

(c) French peasant bands in Brittany, under the leadership of Jean Cotterau (1767-1794), who rose in revolt in 1793 and joined the Royalists of La Vendée. *Chouan* (a corruption of *char-vaunt*, a screech of the owl to warn his companions of danger, and the name was extended to his followers).

NORMS

(a) The Norns are the fates, the dispensers of destiny, in Norse mythology. They lived at the foot of the ash-tree Yggdrasil, which they watered daily from the fountain called Urd. These sisters eventually became three in number in imitation of the three Fates of classical legend.

ROSCIUS

(a) A first-rate actor. Eponym from Quintus Roscius (d. c. 62BC), the Roman actor unrivalled for his grace of action, melody of voice, conception of character and delivery. Shakespeare, Henry IV, Part III, V, 1: "What seem of death has Roscius now to act?"

(b) French peasant bands in Brittany, under the leadership of Jean Cotterau (1767-1794), who rose in revolt in 1793 and joined the Royalists of La Vendée. *Chouan* (a corruption of *char-vaunt*, a screech of the owl to warn his companions of danger, and the name was extended to his followers).

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

B65 causes a breakdown in communications in Black's position, e.g. 1... Rxe2 Ne8 and White wins - 2... Nf5 Nf6 - Kh8 4 Qg8 mate.

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# Double-dealing and sleight embarrassment

Normally, I do not review The Bill (ITV), and for two very good reasons. The first is that its thrice-weekly episodes somehow all fall on evenings normally covered by my colleague and the second... I'll come to shortly. Don't want to lose you quite yet.

This week, however, there is almost no avoiding the series, thanks to worried ITV executives who have sought to counter the perceived threat from the BBC and the Olympics by almost daily doses of Sun Hill. Actually, I thought the British team were doing a pretty good job of countering the Olympics themselves... but enough of such treasonable musings.

Anyway, the result is that after Monday night's repeated feature-length special it was back last night to what *The Bill* does best: crumpling the maximum amount of plot into the minimum amount

of space. Having said that, however, by the time the commercials came along I was beginning to wonder how they were going to fill the second half.

After all, we had a body, we had a motive and we had a confession. No wonder DS Beech (Billy Murray) was looking pleased with himself. Now at this point it would be handy to have some sort of clever poker metaphor prepared, but I'm afraid I don't play cards and "he held all the aces" sounds rather feeble, so I won't try. Simon Tynell, the writer of this episode, however, is clearly a man who knows a flush from a full house.

The body was that of a professional gambler, who had been run over in the early hours of the morning as he made his way back from "a spiel". "What's a spiel?" a character obligingly asked, some 90 seconds after I had wondered exactly the same. "It's an illegal gambling club," said

Beech, "with a two-grand fine." Thank you.

My education continued. I learnt that the King of Hearts is the suicidal king (have a look at his sword the next time you're playing patience) and that two aces and two eights were "the dead man's hand" of the title. Quite why, I wasn't certain, but I'm sure it will come in useful anyway.

But, just as it was in danger of becoming a little too technical, a little too elaborate... Snap! No, snap's not the right word either but you know what I mean. The plot had been well and truly shuffled. Turned out that our pro poker player had not been murdered at all, but had been run over as a result of an imprudent decision to combine crossing a road with having another quick look at the engagement ring he had just bought. It was an example of one of the great

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Sun Hill truths — that life is often a good deal less complicated than it initially seems.

We left Beech reflecting on that, as confession turned to bluff. "You thought I had one sort of hand," taunted Theo (Jamie Foreman), who had means and motive but nothing else. "I just let you believe it." Beech looked like a man in need of a soothing game of clock patience.

Oh yes, the second reason I don't normally write about *The Bill*? My mother is one of its three producers and last night's was one of hers. Sorry, just the way fate deals 'em sometimes.

Still with me? Good, because Lyne Truss is back next week, so it won't happen again for ages. Let us move on and consider Tracks (BBC2), a programme that despite its title has nothing to do with the Olympic Games and everything to do with the British countryside.

But it is far from the haven of rural tranquillity you might imagine or even hope for. Instead, it belies along with lots of music, lots of graphics and lots of people trying to show you how to climb a Scottish mountain in less than five minutes. The only respite comes with the animated weekly nature notes by the Rev Rupert Greene. Last night his chosen theme was water meadows — and very interesting they were, too.

Part of Mr Greene's appeal is that while he may only be a cartoon he has the considerable saving grace of being an amateur animation, a truly Corinthian countryman. By contrast, the real people that surround him are too fervent for my liking, a little too anxious to show off their thoroughly researched expertise.

So, with presenter Lindsay Cannon providing the introductions, we met Ray Mears, the "wilderness expert" who had 101 ideas for things to do with fungi. A 102nd sprang to mind, but Mears looked like the sort of man who had a penknife attachment for just that. We also met two people who appeared to have found birdwatching too exciting. One had taken up feather collecting, the other, dragonfly spotting. Nick Fisher described the latter pastime as "sexy" three times in five minutes. I did not believe him.

Energy and enthusiasm the programme has in admirable abundance, but it is playing a dangerous game by portraying the countryside as a place reserved for an élitist bunch of whispering, cagoule-wearing, know-alls. What's wrong with just enjoying it?

Finally, *Genderquake* (Channel 4), which came to an end last night having never quite recovered from the fact that if you are going to go round asking difficult questions such as "what is really happening in British industry?" just about the last person you would want answering them is former *EastEnders* star, Susan Tully — or any actor, come to that. Apparently the answer is "diversity, co-operation, feminisation". Which just goes to show that if you ask an actor a sensible question... you'll get a silly answer.

• *Lyne Truss is on holiday*

## ITV

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (16851)  
7.00 Olympic Breakfast. The overnight action featuring Richard Phelps in the revamped modern pentathlon, which concluded last night. Plus the quarter-finals of the men's tennis, the badminton mixed doubles semi-finals, boxing, football and hockey. Includes 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 news (s) (47122)

9.00 *News* (Ceefax) (4866493)  
9.05 Olympic Grandstand. Extended highlights of the overnight action. Includes the gymnastics gala, yachting, badminton, football, hockey and boxing (s) (49061764)

12.35pm *Neighbours*. Lou Kisee goodby to a fortune and Michael tells Jen some home truths (Ceefax) (s) (9449219)

1.00 *News & Weather* (Ceefax) (57509)

1.30 *Regional News* (12067219)

1.40 Olympic Grandstand. Coverage of the first round of the 200m and the beginning of the decathlon. There are also women's singles semi-finals in tennis, badminton and basketball (s) (94276035)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (567677)

6.00 *News & Weather* (Ceefax) (219)

6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (899)

7.00 *The Essential Olympics*. Chris Boardman and Mac Scandari compete in the gruelling 200km cycle road race. Plus live tennis, quarter-final boxing, a review of the day's athletics including the 200m and a look ahead to the 400m hurdles final (Ceefax) (s) (7874)

8.30 *Holidays Out*. A new series presented by Kirsty Young and Ben Sherwood looking at ideas for things to do in Britain during the summer (Ceefax) (s) (6344)

9.00 *News; Regional News; Weather* (Ceefax) (9783)

9.30 *Inside Story: The Lady Gums* (Ceefax) (s) (440144)

10.25 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces the latest live action. Athletics: 10.45 Women's 100m hurdles semi-finals 11.15 Men's 200m second round. Featuring John Regis and Unford Christie 11.35 Women's triple jump final. Britain has high hopes of Ashia Hansen making the final 12.15am Men's 400m hurdles semi-final 12.30 Men's discus semi-final 1.00 Men's 3000m steeplechase semi-finals 1.50 Men's 800m final 2.10 Women's 100m hurdles final 2.20 Yachting/Boxing 2.55 Athletics, featuring the decathlon and the men's 5000m 3.10 Athletics, badminton, table tennis, diving and volleyball (s) (32231035)

4.25am *Miss-Takes*. Jon Pitman demonstrates that if it can go wrong it will go wrong, with the aid of the BBC archives (s) (42710082)

4.40 *Film*: *Silver Lode* (1954). On the morning of his wedding, four men calling themselves marshals ride into town accusing the groom of committing a murder in the State of California. When his so-called friends refuse to help him our hero is forced to prove his innocence and reveal the marshals' lies in a climactic gunfight. With John Payne, Dan Duryea and Elizabeth Scott. Directed by Allan Dwan (64916517)

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## BBC2

6.10am *DNA: The Spice of Life* (6536987)  
6.35 *Melodrama* (8050306) 7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (Ceefax) (52276798)

9.05 *Soldierman* (r) (s) (3174783) 9.25 *Cartoon Critters* (Ceefax) (s) (8274659)  
9.55 *Paddington* (Ceefax) (s) (5163870)  
10.00 *Playdays* (r) (s) (5042820)

10.20 *Men in a Suitcase* (Ceefax) (5492211)  
11.10 *A Passion for Angling* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9108103) 12.00 *The Addams Family* (Owl) (r) (Ceefax) (7887054) 12.25pm *The Season* (7880141) 12.55 *Consuming Passions* (2525127) 1.00 *Melvin and Maurice's Music-A-Grams* (r) (s) (76857899)

1.15 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Ceefax) (s) (45203832)

1.55 *Goodness Goodwood*. Julian Wilson introduces the 2.15, 2.45 3.20 and 3.50 (s) (40120306)

4.00 *Tom and Jerry* (7034870) 4.05 *The Family News* (r) (7032141) 4.10 *Run the Risk* (r) (Ceefax) (5458986) 4.30 *Cartoon Critters* (s) (803) 5.00 *Newround* (8110363)

5.10 *Earthquake* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7770290)

5.35 *Olympic Grandstand*. The conclusion of the men's cycling road race in which Chris Boardman carries Britain's hopes (s) (5551219)

5.45 *Short Stories: Downward Nobility* (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

The idea is so good that the film can hardly fail. And nor, thanks to skilfully tongue-in-cheek work by the director, Dominic Allan, does it. His subjects are three members of the upper segment of society who have dropped out. The most extreme kisser of the trio is Sophie Buxton Watt, who is related to the Duke of Hamilton. For reasons not entirely clear she works as an exotic dancer at night clubs in New York. Her husband, John Wraith, the son of a judge, is shaved off his hair and plays in a band is easily explained. He did not want to do what was expected of somebody of his background. Tony Hamilton, the grandson of a baron, runs a pub and loves racing power boats against aristocrats who regard him as a yob. Surprisingly, perhaps, the parents of the trio tend to be more supportive than appalled.

**Inside Story: The Lady Gums** (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Shirley, Amanda, Elona and Barbara like nothing better than to head for a country estate and point their guns at a hapless pheasant. As it is still unusual for women to join men at a shoot, the director Carrie Britton has got herself a cracking subject.

"She still behaves like a bit of a madam," says Amanda's husband, Ralph, adding that she will get more respect if she acts like a man. Amanda's riposte is not recorded. But Britton is not content just to follow a battle of the sexes. Her film is a revealing portrait of the landed gentry at play, pursuing a hobby that can cost them up to £30,000 a year while the beaters, whose job is to drive the birds towards the guns, are paid a mere £15 for a six-hour day. What terrific Shirley and the other lady guns is that a Labour Government will make their sport illegal. Tony Blair will find no recruits here.

**Double Exposure: A Relative Stranger** (BBC2, 11.15pm)

The series of films by writers new to television continues with a dismally enigmatic piece by Marcus Llooyd. We first meet Peter (Jason Isaacs) at university, where he is producing a politically charged version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is also about to marry his girlfriend, Jenny (Suzanna Hamilton). We then flash forward at least 20 years (though this could have been made clearer) to when Peter has a different wife (Siobhan Redmond) and two children. The crux of the scenario is that Peter loses his memory of the recent past and tries to pick up the threads of his student life, and not least Jenny. It all seems a shade unlikely, but leaving credibility aside, this is an involving drama with sharp observation and carefully etched performances. We shall surely hear of Marcus Lloyd again.

**Survival Special: The Tigers Next Door** (Teletext) (s) (2986)

9.00 *Film*: *Heartbreak Ridge*, starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. Disillusioned with the high-tech military, an ageing Vietnam veteran returns to his old unit and puts a squadron of lazy young recruits through their paces, turning them into a well-disciplined unit. Also with Marsha, Mason (r) (Teletext) (s) (2122) Continues after the news.

10.00 *News* (Teletext) and *weather* (26281)

10.30 *Regional News* (Teletext) (879948)

10.40 *Heartbreak Ridge*. Concluded (871696)

12.00pm *Film*: *In the Aftermath* (1987) with Rainbow Dolan and Kenneth McCabe. A soldier who survives a nuclear disaster plagued by strange dreams. Directed by Carl Coppar (222082)

1.00 *Film*: *Downward Nobility* (1954)

1.15 *Double Exposure: A Relative Stranger* (Ceefax) (s) (200509)

12.20pm *I'm Still a Tourist* (r) (7884420)

1.30 *Olympic Grandstand*. Featuring the men's hockey semi-final (s) (487913)

3.00 *Film*: *It Happened on 5th Avenue* (1947, b/w). A tramp acquires the use of a mansion from a holidaying millionaire and opens the doors to his fellow street-dwellers. He does not realise that the owner is one of them. Musical comedy directed by Roy Del Ruth (346522)

4.55 *Open University: Making Medical Decisions* (8149875) 5.20 *Developing World* (888265) 5.45 *The Art of Commerce* (40468)

5.45 *Short Stories: Downward Nobility* (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

The series of films by writers new to television continues with a dismally enigmatic piece by Marcus Llooyd. We first meet Peter (Jason Isaacs) at university, where he is producing a politically charged version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is also about to marry his girlfriend, Jenny (Suzanna Hamilton). We then flash forward at least 20 years (though this could have been made clearer) to when Peter has a different wife (Siobhan Redmond) and two children. The crux of the scenario is that Peter loses his memory of the recent past and tries to pick up the threads of his student life, and not least Jenny. It all seems a shade unlikely, but leaving credibility aside, this is an involving drama with sharp observation and carefully etched performances. We shall surely hear of Marcus Lloyd again.

**SKY TRAVEL**

6.00am *Project X* (8087) 6.05 *Sharky* (9101815) 6.05 *Garbage* (9102057) 6.10 *Garbage* (9102059) 6.30-10.00 *Home Improvement* (14573329)

**EUROSPORT**

6.00am *Good Morning Atlanta* (808517) 7.00 *Artistic Gymnastics* (20577) 8.00 *Diving* (2130) 9.00 *Softball* (20577) 10.00 *Swimming* (20578) 11.00 *Wrestling* (20579) 12.00 *Artistic Gymnastics* (603033) 1.00pm *Diving* (61202) 1.30 *3m Cycling* (60899) 2.00 *1m Cycling* (60899) 2.30 *2m Cycling* (60899) 3.00 *4m Cycling* (60899) 3.30 *7m Boxing* (60899) 3.50 *8.5m Olympic Extra* (60899) 3.50 *9.5m Athletics* (60899) 3.55 *10.5m Handball* (60899) 3.55 *11.5m Softball* (60899) 3.55 *12.5m Badminton* (60899) 3.55 *13.5m Ma* (60899) 3.55 *14.5m Table Tennis* (60899) 3.55 *15.5m Diving* (60899) 3.55 *16.5m Swimming* (60899) 3.55 *17.5m Gymnastics* (60899) 3.55 *18.5m Boxing* (60899) 3.55 *19.5m Diving* (60899) 3.55 *20.5m Gymnastics* (60899) 3.55 *21.5m Swimming* (60899) 3.55 *22.5m Gymnastics* (60899) 3.55 *23.5m Gymnastics* (60899) 3.55 *24.5m Gymnastics* (60899) 3.55 *25.5m Gymnastics</*



## RACING 37

St Mawes makes  
mark at  
Glorious Goodwood

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 31 1996

## OLYMPIC GAMES 42

Sixsmith's goals  
give Britain  
chance of bronze



Tendon problem may force Briton's glorious career to premature end at Atlanta

## Injured Gunnell considers retirement

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN ATLANTA

**SALLY GUNNELL**, Britain's most cherished athlete, for her successes, homesickness and always cheerful demeanour, admitted yesterday that she may have reached the end of her glorious career.

"I will not be making any decisions about whether to carry on running at the moment," Gunnell said, recognising that retirement would be the alternative preferred to another operation and long journey back through rehabilitation to fitness, should it come to that choice.

For the second time in three races, Gunnell had to be

grand prix on July 3. Ironically — cruelly — it was at the same flight that she pulled up again. Knocked off balance at the fourth hurdle, she suffered the same shooting pain at the sixth hurdle that she had felt in Lausanne and stopped before she reached the seventh.

This was no way to celebrate her thirtieth birthday. In the deep of winter, she had been looking forward to this night as a way to toast her departure from her twenties and forget the traumas of 1995. Last year, with an injury to her right foot similar to that which she has now, she had been unable to defend her world title and saw her world record go on the same evening as she watched from a BBC commentary box.

The American pair, Kim Batten — who took her world title and world record 12 months ago — and Tonya Buford-Bailey have ruled the event and Gunnell went into Atlanta with the odds stacked heavily against her. The two United States athletes are among the favourites here.

This time, it is her left foot. She will have a scan today and then discuss the implications of that with medical experts.

Gunnell said after a scan of the injury four weeks ago that she would have retired had it required another operation.

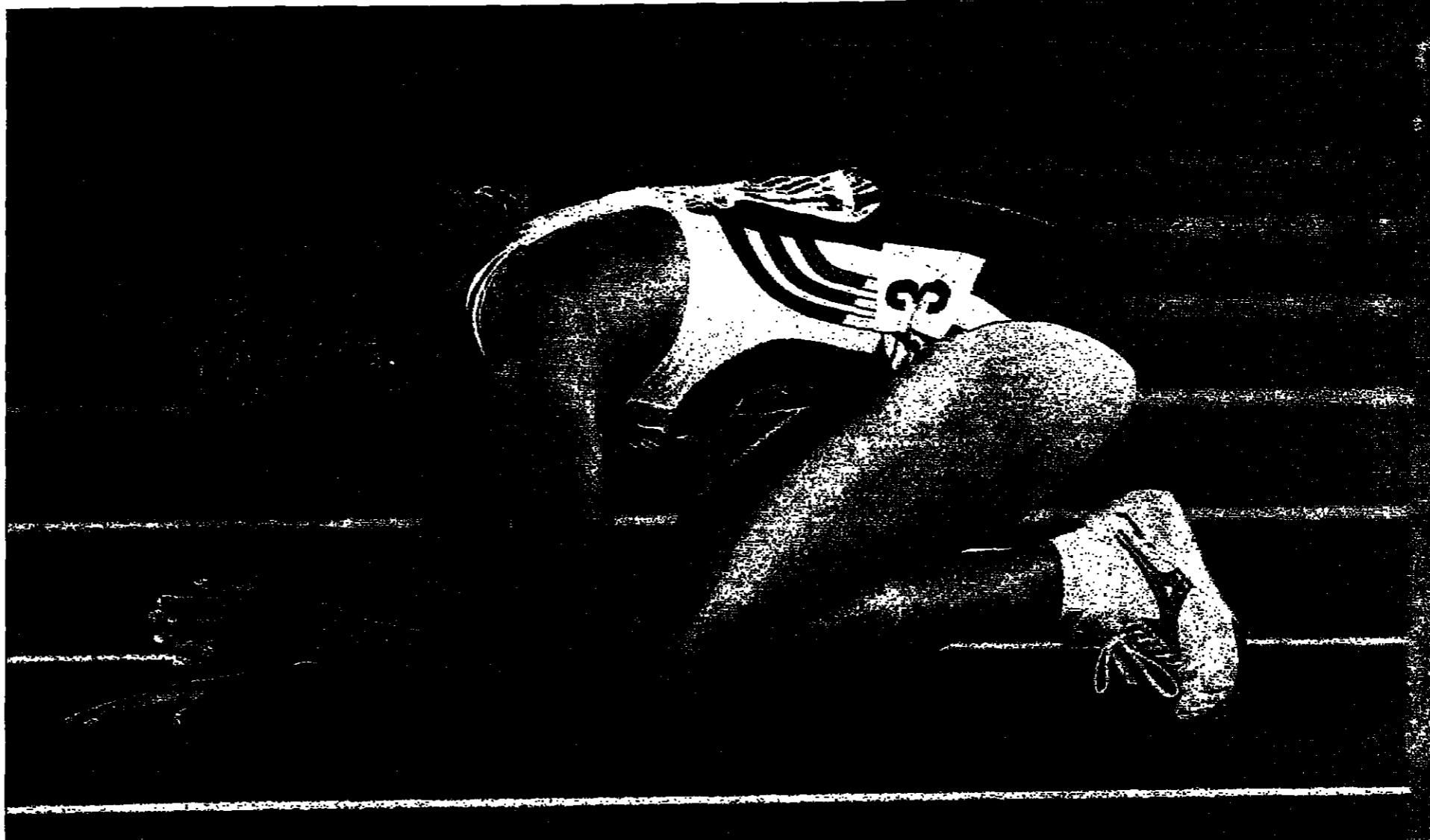
She would, she said, not have wanted to spend another full year working her way back to fitness. She and her husband, Jon Bigg, want to start a family.

In addition, what more is there for her to achieve in the sport? She has broken a world record, which Linford Christie, who won the 100 metres at Barcelona, never has in an outdoor arena. She has been an Olympic champion, which Britain's other three leading athletes of the Nineties — Jonathan Edwards, Colin Jackson, and Steve Backley — never have, though Backley still has his chance to come this week. She has achieved the so-called grand slam, holding Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth titles all at the same time.

It was a recurrence of the tendon injury to her left foot, though it had not been given a reasonable time to heal, that brought her to an abrupt halt at the seventh flight of ten hurdles in the wheelchair that took her to the medical room.

helped from the track on Monday evening, when injury took its toll again, on this most important of occasions. Here to defend the Olympic 400 metres hurdles championship that she had won in Barcelona four years earlier, with a technique as close to perfection as the event has seen, she left the stage not carrying the Union flag in a lap of celebration but in the wheelchair that took her to the medical room.

It was a recurrence of the tendon injury to her left foot, though it had not been given a reasonable time to heal, that brought her to an abrupt halt at the seventh flight of ten hurdles in the wheelchair that took her to the medical room.



A distraught Gunnell collapses in pain on the track in Atlanta during her fateful semi-final of the 400 metres hurdles, with the defence of her Olympic title in tatters

... everything that has happened. I had seemed on Sunday, when she came through the first round, that the optimism expressed by Dr Roland Biedert, the Swiss doctor who treats Gunnell, was justified. He had said that she had a good chance of competing in Atlanta and lasting the distance. "It may be slightly worse than one injury," Gunnell said yesterday.

"All my emotions are mixed. I am obviously disappointed about losing the title in such circumstances, but at least I went out and gave it a go. I just want to be on my own for a while and get away from

typical of the Olympics. When you come to these Games, you know there will be drama and pathos. Unfortunately, Sally has been a victim this time. We are all desperately disappointed for her.

"I hit the fourth hurdle and that knocked me off balance almost into the next lane. I then rotated on the foot and that is what caused the problem. There is no way I could have gone on."

Speaking on behalf of the British Athletic Federation, Tony Ward said: "We are all sad for Sally. She is a great competitor and the least she deserved was to defend her title in the final. It is

considering changing her luck in the 1,500 metres starting today. "I might as well run the 1,500 metres because it looks as if this is the end of the season for me anyway," Holmes said.

Last year, with Gunnell injured, Holmes took on the role of the being the leading British woman athlete, winning a silver medal in the 1,500 metres at the world championships and a bronze in the 800 metres. She was due to have an X-ray examination yesterday to determine the extent of the damage to her lower left leg. It is feared she may have a stress fracture.

## Second Russian fails drug test in Atlanta

THE expulsion from the Centennial Olympic Games of Nina Zhivanevskaya, the backstroke swimmer from Russia, yesterday took to four of the most of those who tested positive for the banned stimulant, Bromantan, in Atlanta (Craig Lord writes).

New rules brought in by FINA, swimming's international governing body, in February mean that Zhivanevskaya's results from the Olympic Games and the European championships, at Vienna last year, will be cancelled. She was third in the 100 metres backstroke at Vienna.

The Lithuanian cycling team doctor and coach have also been excluded from the Games and all qualifying Olympic events until Sydney 2000.

The three competitors

Can't get started?

## Atherton rewarded at the death

BY PAT GIBSON

**OLD TRAFFORD** (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Derbyshire by two runs

**MICHAEL ATHERTON** was not taking any chances this time. Twenty-four hours after he had failed to save the England citadel at Lord's from the rampaging Pakistanis, he made sure that Lancashire's Old Trafford stronghold did not fall to the invaders from across the Pennine border by doing the job himself.

Without Atherton's utterly dedicated 115, chiselled out in 58 overs, Lancashire would have surrendered their proud, unbeaten home record in knockout competitions, stretching back over nine seasons and 15 matches, as well as their hope of adding the NatWest Trophy to the Benson and Hedges Cup.

They knew that Derbyshire were dangerous opponents in this quarter-final. They were the last side to beat them in a knockout match in Lancashire, albeit at Liverpool in 1988; they had beaten them again in the 1993 Benson and

Hedges Cup final; and they had just overcome them in both the championship and the Sunday league at Old Trafford. And they almost did it again. In the end, Dean Jones, the Derbyshire captain, needed to hit a four off the final ball from Chapple to level the scores and give his side victory by virtue of the fact that they scored four more runs off the first 30 overs.

He could manage only two and, although Jones had the consolation of completing a magnificent century, Lancashire had won a knockout game off the last ball for the third time this season.

Atherton invariably sets out his stall to bat through the innings and that is just what Lancashire needed on a slow, turning pitch where strokeplay was never easy. There were only four boundaries in his first 50, which came from 122 balls, and none at all in his second, although that took him only 55 balls. It was testimony to the mental toughness and physical endurance of a man who had just gone through all kinds of agonies in a five-day Test that, when he was finally caught at long-on, he had batted for 3½ hours, faced 175 balls and struck only six fours.

Gallian had shared in a partnership of 57 in 20 overs but Crawley and Fairbrother failed against some tight Derbyshire bowling and the acceleration came from Lloyd, who made 61 out of 101 for the fourth wicket off only 59 balls with a six and seven fours.

Barnett took five of the last six wickets to fall for 32, as Lancashire thrashed 80 off the last ten overs, and then seemed to have given Derbyshire the platform for victory when he and Cork put on 92 for the first wicket.

Both were out in the first over after tea, however, and once they had gone it was a question of whether Jones, still one of the best one-day batsmen in the world, could conjure victory on a pitch reviving memories of Jim Laker's 19 wickets here 40 years ago almost to the day. He could not have got much closer and, if Fairbrother had not pulled off a miraculous stop on the long-on boundary to turn what looked like being a six into a single in the penultimate over, he would have won a famous victory.

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